ANXIETY AND DEFENSE MECHANISM OF WILL HUNTING IN GOOD WILL HUNTING MOVIE

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A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

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ANXIETY AND DEFENSE MECHANISM OF WILL HUNTING IN GOOD WILL HUNTING MOVIE

ABSTRACT

Movie is a part of literary works. Good Will Hunting movie tells about a man named Will Hunting. He is the main character in the movie. He has three friends in his life. He has low education but he has good knowledge. It is because he likes reading books. He works as an office boy and a crew construction. Will Hunting feels anxious about his life. He is afraid will be disappointed and left by other people. He also feels anxious about jobs. He often losses jobs because his anxiousness. His anxiousness is caused by his childhood experinces. He often gets violence from his father and his friends. This movie depicts a tragedy within human's life. A portrayal of anxiety and defense mechanism are revealed through the main character in this movie. Will Hunting character strengthens the idea of Sigmund Freud's anxiety and defense mechanism, revealed in this work. The method used is a qualitative research, especially library research. Firstly, the writer watches Good Will Hunting movie as the main data in this research in order to find the main problem. Secondly, the writer selects the data that relate to the topic. Next, the writer applies psychonalysis theory especially theory of anxiety, which relate to the idea of the anxiety and the defense mechanism proposed by Sigmund Freud. The writer also applies cynematography theory by Amy Villarejo to analyze the scene picture in the movie. Finally, the writer draws conclusions. The analysis of data leads to the conclusion that through this story, Will Hunting has three kinds of anxiety; realistic anxiety, neurotic anxiety, and moral anxiety. Will Hunting suffers from the realistic anxiety because of Sean and the difficult situation around him. He also gets the neurotic anxiety because of his imagination that something dreadful will happen to him. Therefore, he also suffers moral anxiety because he breaks a moral value. Will Hunting tries to deal with his anxieties by doing some defense mechanisms. Will Hunting uses three defense mechanisms, they are; denial, rationalization, and displacement. In denial, Will tries to reduce his anxiety with refusing to recognize his love feeling to Sklar. In rationalization, he reduces his anxiety by lying to his friends about the truth. Last, he uses displacement as the defense mechanism by getting a drink.

Keywords: Anxiety, Defense Mechanism, Psychoanalysis Theory

ANXIETY AND DEFENSE MECHANISM OF WILL HUNTING IN GOOD WILL HUNTING MOVIE

ABSTRAK

Film merupakan bagian dari karya sastra. Film Good Will Hunting bercerita tentang seorang pria bernama Will Hunting. Dia adalah tokoh utama dalam film ini. Dia memiliki tiga teman dalam hidupnya. Dia memiliki pendidikan rendah namun memiliki pengetahuan yang baik. Itu karena dia suka membaca buku. Dia bekerja sebagai office boy and crew konstruksi. Will Hunting merasa cemas tentang hidupnya. Dia takut akan kecewa dan ditinggalkan oleh orang lain. Dia juga merasa cemas tentang sebuah pekerjaan. Dia sering kehilangan pekerjaan karena kecemasannya. Kecemasannya disebabkan oleh pengalaman masa kecilnya. Dia sering mendapat kekerasan dari ayahnya dan teman-temannya. Film ini menggambarkan sebuah tragedi dalam kehidupan manusia. Sebuah penggambaran kecemasan dan mekanisme pertahanan terungkap melalui karakter utama dalam film ini. Akankah karakter Hunting memperkuat gagasan Sigmund Freud yaitu kegelisahan dan mekanisme pertahanan, terungkap dalam karya ini. Metode yang digunakan adalah penelitian kualitatif, terutama penelitian kepustakaan. Pertama, penulis menonton film Good Will Hunting sebagai data utama dalam penelitian ini untuk mengetahui permasalahan utamanya. Kedua, penulis memilih data yang berhubungan dengan topik. Selanjutnya, penulis menerapkan teori psikoanalisis terutama teori kecemasan, yang berhubungan dengan anxiety dan mekanisme pertahanan diri.. Penulis juga menerapkan teori sinematografi oleh Amy Villarejo untuk menganalisis gambar adegan di dalam film. Terakhir, penulis menyusun kesimpulan. Dari analisa data yang terkumpull dapat disimpulkan bahwa Will Hunting memiliki tiga jenis kecemasan; Kecemasan realistis, kecemasan neurotik, dan kecemasan moral. Kecemasan relitiknya disebabkan oleh Sean dan situasi sulit disekitarnya. Dia juga mendapat kecemasan neurotik yang disebabkan oleh imajinasinya bahwa sesuatu yang mengerikan akan menimpanya. Selain itu, dia juga mengalami kecemasan moral yang disebabkan karena dia melanggar nilai moral. Will Hunting mencoba mengatasi kecemasannya dengan melakukan beberapa mekanisme pertahanan. Will Hunting menggunakan tiga mekanisme pertahanan; Penyangkalan, rasionalisasi, dan pemindahan. Dalam Penyangkalan, Will mencoba mengurangi kegelisahannya dengan menolak mengaku perasaan cintanya kepada Skylar. Dalam rasionalisasi, dia mengurangi kecemasannya dengan berbohong kepada teman-temannya tentang kebenaran. Terakhir, ia menggunakan perpindahan sebagai mekanisme pertahanan dengan menjadi seorang peminum.

Kata Kunci: Kecemasan, Mekanisme Pertahanan, Teori Psikoanalisis

MOTTO

Where There Is A Will,
There Is A Way

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DEDICATION

This graduating paper I dedicate to:

my beloved parents, my older brother, and my little sisters who have been becoming my spirit and always support me everywhere,

every time.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Literature is a part of human life. It is fictional and imaginative writings that have several genres such as prose fiction, poetry, drama and movie. According to Cambridge Advance Learner's Dictionary, literature is written artistic works, especially those with the high and lasting artistic values while the products of literature are called literary works.

Movie is one of literary works. It represents or reflects reality of a certain social life in a certain period of time. Some movies reflect political and social pressure of a certain circumstances. Movie has several kinds of genre such as horror, comedy, historical, animation, action, fiction, and romantic movie.

In this research, the writer chooses a movie as the material object of the analysis. It is because movie has the whole package as a literary works by not only portraying its story, but also its sound and picture which make the audience can easily understand the story of the movie. It shows that movie is such an interesting literary works with many combination elements such as camera, lighting, actor, setting, and audio visual.

The writer chooses *Good Will Hunting* movie as the material object. *Good Will Hunting* is directed by Gus Van Sant and screenplay written by Ben Affleck and Matt Damon. It was first released on December, 5th 1997 in the USA. It was produced by Miramax Films. It became one of the popular movies and got a financial success with budget \$10,000,000 and got opening weekend: \$272,912 (USA) (5 December 1997), gross: \$138,339,411 (USA) (24 July 1998) (http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0119217/).

Good Will Hunting movie is an inspiring movie to be analyzed because Will Hunting character as a genius man has some anxious manners. He has low formal education but he has good knowledge like educated man. This movie tells about a young man named Will Hunting. He is a genius man but he just works as an office boy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He grows up with adoptive parents because he is an orphan. When he was child, he often got violence from his adoptive father and his friend. It influences his characters to a frightening man. He does not want to reveal his life to other people in spite of his friends. He is afraid if other people know about his life they will leave him. He is also afraid that he will be ignored by others because he has once ever experiences been ignored by his adoptive father. His experiences make him difficult to trust other people.

People sometimes feel anxious in their lives. It is genuine because it is one of the natures of human character. They feel anxious about something unclear that will happen in the future. It occurs because their anxious feelings always threat them. Commonly, people who feel anxious use strategy to cope with their anxieties.

In islamic perspective, verse related to this research is the verse of 69 Al-Ankabut:

"And those who struggled in our path, surely we shall guide them in our ways. And no doubt, Allah is with the righteous."

From the verse above, God explains that He will never guide us to face bad situations if we try to go out from its situation. Therefore, if we are in bad situation we have to try to go out from that situation, like what Will Hunting does. This verse relates to this research about Will Hunting's fear. Will Hunting's fear can be seen from the scenes and dialogues in the movie, either personally or with other figures. Besides, Will has some methods to cope with his fear. Furthermore, the writer focuses on analyzing the psychological aspect of Will as the main character of the movie.

1.2 Research Question

From the main problem which the writer explains above, the writer formulates the research questions as follow:

- 1. What are the forms of Will Hunting's anxiety?
- 2. What are causal factors of his anxiety related to the *Good Will Hunting* movie?
- 3. How does Will Hunting apply defense mechanism as the way to reduce his anxiety?

1.3 Objectives of Study

The objectives of this study are to describe the forms and the causal factors of Will's anxiety, and to identify forms of defense mechanisms used by

Will, the main character of the movie to cope with his anxiety in *Good Will Hunting* movie.

1.4 Significances of Study

Since the writer must have significance, the writer hopes that this kind of research will give readers significance that is useful. Here, the writer divides the significance of the study into two categories, theoretically and practically.

Theoretically, this research can be used as a contribution on literary field, particularly as a reference and additional input in discussing psychoanalysis in a movie. It can be used as an appropriate reference in conducting further research with similar topic.

Practically, this research can be used to understand the content of anxiety as represented on the *Good Will Hunting* movie. It also can be used to give explanations about psychoanalysis theory concerning the forms and the causal factors of anxiety, and how Will Hunting copes with his anxiety relates to defense mechanism.

1.5 Literature Review

There is only one researcher who analyzes about the *Good Will Hunting* movie. The others, the writer finds some researchers concerning with similar theory, Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory.

The first research is written by Ahmad Rizky Fauzi, entitled "The Analysis of the Speech Acts in the Good Will Hunting Movie" (State University

of Lancar Kuning Pekanbaru, 2016). His research focuses on analyzing speech acts in the utterances of dialogues, identifying and classifying based on the classifications of speech acts. The analysis of meaning is seen from the types of speech act, such as locutionary, illocutionary, and elocutionary. The forms of illocutionary act are classified based on the classification of illocutionary speech act; which are representative, directive, commisive, declarative and expressive.

The second research is written by Wahyu Ismoyo, entitled "Anxiety and Defense Mechanism of Bethani Hamilton in Pursuing Her Dream as Portrayed in *Soul Surfer* Movie" (State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta, 2009). He applies psychoanalitic theory based on true story movie. It tells about a young girl, her name is Bethani Hamilton who can be a profesional surfer with only one arm. His paper reflects human's anxiety and combines with a good defense mechanism. This research aimed to find out the types of Bethany Hamilton's anxiety in soul surfer and the form of defense mechanism concerning with her anxiety on pursuing her dream.

The third research is written by Imamah Isfarotul Munawaroh. In his research entitled "Personality of the Main Character in the *Boy and the Swan*" (State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta, 2014). It tells about an isolated boy named Aishe left by his mother and adopted by his grandmother. He always feels lonely in his times. The central point of this analysis is the personality of Aishe who faces his life without his parents as the common condition of children. This research aims to understand how the main character's id, ego, and superego which relates to the nurture influences the main character's

personality. This research applies psychoanalysis theory by Freud. This research concludes that through this story, the nature of the main character are in the form of the good heredity from his grandmother and his mother.

Three prior researches above are related to this research. The first research has same object on analyzing *Good Will Hunting* movie but focuses on speech acts in the utterances of dialogues, identifying and classifying based on the classifications of speech acts. Two prior researches above have same theory but using different object. This research focuses on analyzing *Good Will Hunting* movie based on psychoanalysis theory.

1.6 Theoretical Approach

In analyzing this research, the writer uses psychoanalysis theory by Sigmund Freud. The writer analyzes the psychoanalysis of Will Hunting as the main character on *Good Will Hunting* movie especially in the way how he copes with his anxieties with the defense mechanism. Regarding to the relation of Will Hunting and the way how he copes with his anxieties, it is related with the mental of life especially in the personality of each person.

1.6.1 System of Personality

Sigmund Freud classified the personal mentality of human into three parts; id, ego, and superego. These theories help Freud to explain the mental images according to their functions or purposes. The first is id that translates as content's needs into motivational forces called instincts or drives. The second is

ego means organism to reality by means of its consciousness, and it searches for objects to satisfy the wishes that id creates to represent the content's needs. The third is superego which contains the internal embodiment of the values or ideals of traditional communities, as explained parents to children and they do it by giving reward or punishment. The superego is controlled by the principles of moralistic and idealistic as opposed to the pleasure principle of the id and reality principle of ego. (Yustinus, 2006: 61-66)

Besides Id, Ego, and Superego, according to Freud there are other mechanisms that affect human behavior. It is defense mechanism. This is the individual way to reduce feelings of depression, anxiety, stress, and conflict. It is used to perform a defense mechanism.

The id, ego, and superego are related to anxiety because every person has internal conflicts. The internal conflicts between id and superego can make the ego feels anxious. Based on the book of *Primer of Freudian Psychology*, Anxiety is a painful emotional experience which is produced by excitations in the internal organs of the body. These excitations result from internal or external stimulation and are governed by autonomic nervous system. (as cited in Hall, 1954: 60)

1.6.2 Anxiety

Sigmund Freud mentions three kinds of anxieties, are:

1.6.2.1 Neurotic Anxiety

Neurotic anxiety is defined as apprehension about an unknown danger. People may experience neurotic anxiety in the presence of teacher, employer, or some authority figure because they previously experienced unconscious feeling one or both parents. During childhood, these feelings of hostility are often accompanied by fear of punishment, and this fear becomes generalized into unconscious neurotic anxiety. (as citied in Feist, 2008: 34)

1.6.2.2 Moral Anxiety

Moral anxiety is the fear of conscious. It is someone's anxiety that comes from his/her thinking that is contrary or not proper according to the moral code of the society. People who have moral anxiety are considered to have their superegos well-developed. Moreover, the people who have moral anxiety have been punished in the past for violating the moral code and he fears that he may be punished again. (as cited in Nuraeni, 2010: 13)

1.6.2.3 Realistic Anxiety

Realistic Anxiety is a state that occurs in humans when they perceive themselves to be in genuine danger. This state causes an increase in adrenaline and causes a person to take whatever action they need to save themselves from that danger. For instance, while driving a car you see an accident occur just in front of you and you immediately take whatever action is necessary to avoid becoming part of that accident (http://www.alleydog. com/glossary /defin ition. php?term=Realistic%20Anxiety).

1.6.3 Defense Mechanism

Besides Id, Ego, and Superego, according to Freud there is another mechanism that affects human behavior. It is a defense mechanism.

"This is the most individual way to reduce feelings of depression, anxiety, stress, and conflict. Basically, the defense mechanism does not change the objective conditions of danger but only changed the way of people to perceive or think about this issue" (Daniel and Lawrence, 2011: 86-87).

Anxiety relates to defense mechanism because someone who feels anxious will reduce his or her anxiety by using the defense mechanism. Defense mechanism is a various techniques that are used by the ego to control his anxiety. People usually use defense mechanism to cope with his anxiety but they do it unconsciously. (Berger, 2004). From the beginning of the theory, anxiety is related to defense mechanism because it is needed to cope with the anxiety. Here kinds of defense mechanism are:

1.6.3.1 Repression

Repression is an unconscious mechanism employed by the ego to keep disturbing or threating thought from becoming conscious. As a result of repression the person is not aware of his own anxiety producing impulses or does not remember deeply emotional and traumatic past events. (as cited in Jannah, 2016: 9-10)

1.6.3.2 Denial

This defense mechanism is generally caused by the traumatic experience so someone who feels anxious will have preoccupation or attachment like smoking, to something to conceal the repressed impulse. (as cited in Kholidi, 2013: 11)

1.6.3.3 Reaction Formation

Doing the opposite of the people would really like do. Reaction formation reduces anxiety by taking to the opposite feeling. For example, someone who has high sex impulse becomes people who opposites pornography. (as cited in McLeod. 2009)

1.6.3.4 Displacement

Displacement is the redirection of an impulse (usually aggression) onto a powerless substitute target. The target can be a person or an object that can serve as a symbolic substitute. Someone who feels uncomfortable with their sexual desire for a real person may substitute a fetish. Someone who is frustrated by his or her superiors may go home and kick the dog, beat up a family member, or engage in cross-burnings. (as cited in McLeod. 2009)

1.6.3.5 Fixation

This defense mechanism is generally caused by the traumatic experience so someone who feels anxious will have preoccupation or attachment like smoking, to something to conceal the repressed impulse. (as cited in Kholidi, 2013: 11)

1.6.3.6 Regression

This is a movement back in psychological time when one is faced with stress. When we are troubled or frightened, our behaviors often become more childish or primitive. A child may begin to suck their thumb again or wet the bed when they need to spend some time in the hospital. Teenagers may giggle

uncontrollably when introduced into a social situation involving the opposite sex. (as cited in McLeod, 2009)

1.6.3.7 Projection

According to Freud, projection is attributing a threating urge, impulse of aspect of oneself to someone else. If he/she thinks the best offense is a good defense, he/she uses projection a lot. For example, someone says "I do not hate him, it was he who hates me". (as cited in McLeod, 2009)

1.6.3.8 Sublimation

This is similar to displacement, but takes place when we manage to displace our emotions into a constructive rather than destructive activity. This might for example be artistic. Many great artists and musicians have had unhappy lives and have used the medium of art of music to express themselves. Sport is another example of putting our emotions (e.g. aggression) into something constructive. (as cited in McLeod, 2009)

1.6.3.9 Rationalization

According to Freud when people are not able to deal with the reasons they behave in particular ways, they protect themselves by creating self-justifying explanations for their behaviors. For example, if I flunk out of school because I didn't study properly it might be so hard for me to deal with that I rationalize my behaviors by saying that I simply didn't have enough time to study because I have a full-time job, a baby at home, and so many other demands on my time (http://www.alleydog.com/glossary/definition.php?term=Rationalization).

1.6.4 Film Theory

Besides the theory of psychoanalysis as the primary theory, the writer uses film theory as the secondary theory. Amy Villarejo states in his book *Film Studies: The Basics*, there are two aspects in analyzing the movie.

The first is *mise-en-scene* which comes from French language. It means "put into the scenes" encompassed by "frame" (2007:28). The function is representing "reality" and "real world". There are six components of Mise-enscene, are: setting, lighting, hair, make-up, and figure behavior (2007: 29).

The second is cinematography element; everything "put in" to a given shot is recorded by a camera (2007: 36). Every placement of the camera can be analyzed in terms of the distance between the camera and its object(s). Film analysis has evolved an anthropocentric taxonomy for describing distance, which using the human body as the reference point for each designation. Those are including in framing:

- 1. The extreme long shot (ELS), in which one can barely distinguish the human figure.
- 2. The long shot (LS), in which humans are distinguishable but remain dwarfed by the background;
- 3. The medium long shot (MLS), or plan American, in which the human is framed from the knees up;
- 4. The medium shot (MS), in which we move in slightly to frame the human from the waist up;

- 5. The medium close-up (MCU), in which we are slightly closer and see the human from the chest up;
- 6. The close-up (CU), which isolates a portion of a human (the face, most prominently);
- 7. The extreme close-up (ECU), in which we see a mere portion of the face (an eye, the lips) (2007: 38).

1.7 Method of Research

1.7.1 Type of Research

Research has two types such as quantitative and qualitative research. A quantitative research is the theory to prove something to be verifiable. Truth or validity of a theory will be tested through research on a group or a particular region (Martono, 2010: 22). A qualitative research also is one in which the inquirer often makes knowledge claims based primarily on constructivist perspectives (the multiple meanings socially and historically constructed, with an intent developing a theory or pattern) or advocacy/participatory perspectives (political, issue oriented, collaborative, or change oriented) or both (John W. Creswell, 2003: 18).

The writer collects the data from some dialogues and scenes of *Good Will Hunting* movie. Besides, the writer uses library research to get more information about the theory and the *Good Will Hunting* movie to be analyzed.

Based on the explanations above, the writer uses qualitative research as method of research. This paper explores a social problem relates to anxiety which concerns defense mechanism.

1.7.2 Data Sources

The data source of this research is *Good Will Hunting* movie. It has two data sources. There are main data and supporting data. The main data is the form of action that shows anxiety and defense mechanism. On the other side, the supporting data is obtained from some books, website and other matters which are relevant to support this research.

1.7.3 Data Collection Technique

According to Bungin, the method of collecting data is divided into three sections. They are interview, observation, and documentary (2010: 108). The object of the research is a movie. Thus, this research uses documentary as method of collecting data because movie is a part of documentary form.

This paper is approached by library research, and website surfing. The library research is approached by observation in some books that are relevant to the topic. While website surfing is approached by browsing some websites which support the writer's analysis.

The method of this research is documentary method. The documentation is done by watching the movie of *Good Will Hunting* repeatedly. Then, the writer is finds the main problem in this movie which relates to the social condition and

finds the anxieties occur in the movie. After that the writer visits the library visit to read some books relate to the theory of anxiety and web surfing to get more information about the movie and the theory.

1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique

In analyzing the data, the writer uses descriptive analysis the data. The writer analyzes the data based on the theory of psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud to find the forms of anxiety, causal factors of anxiety and defense mechanisms which used to cope the anxiety.

1.8 Paper Organization

This research is divided into four chapters. The first chapter contains an introduction. The introduction includes the background of study, research question, objectives of study, significances of the study, literature review, theoretical approach, method of research, and paper organization. The second chapter contains the intrinsic elements of the movie. It deals with character and characterization, summary of the movie, and plot of the movie. The third chapter is discussion about forms and causal factors of Will Hunting's anxieties by using theory of anxiety and defense mechanism. The last chapter is conclusion. It concludes the entire of the discussion and suggestion from the writer for future research.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter is conclusion of the research. This conclusion refers to the answer of the research questions that have been represented by the writer in the previous chapters. This chapter also contains the suggestions from the writer for future research.

4.1 CONCLUSION

In this chapter, the writer shows the result of the analysis of the previous chapter. It can be concluded that Will Hunting gets anxiety and he uses defense mechanism to cope with his anxiety. Will Hunting as the object in this research feels some anxiousness. The first anxiety is realistic anxiety, the second is neurotic anxiety and the third is moral anxiety. He has two realistic anxieties, there are afraid of serving punishment in the prison, and being killed by Sean. He has four neurotic anxieties such as loss of loved object from his adoptive parents, afraid to reveal the truth to others, ignored by Skylar, and Professor knows about his job. Then, he has two moral anxieties. They are he is afraid about his behavior and serving punishment in the prison.

Fear of revealing his privacy problems is shown when the therapist tries to help him, he exactly plays on the therapist. He does not want to reveal his problems to the therapist. Next, his neurotic anxiety is fear to adapt with new people and new environment. It is shown when Chuckie replaces him to meet with

McNeils for a job. Then, it is described when Skylar invites Will to go to California together and Will rejects it. He is afraid that Skylar will marry with another man and he will be ignored. His moral anxiety is that he is afraid other people know about his behavior. There are many actions which are done by Will in the past until he relates with the law. If other people know about that, he is afraid that they will leave him alone. Furthermore, his moral anxiety is the fears of facing his punishment in the prison. His behavior which is broken the law makes him enters to the prison. Because he is afraid to be in the prison during two years, finally he receives Prof. Gerald's offering.

His anxiety is influenced by many things. First, he loses his parent. Second, he gets physical and psychological violence when he was child from his adoptive father and his friends. Then, his psychological violence comes from physical violence. He never gets love and attention from his foster father.

He uses defense mechanism to cope with his anxiety. His defense mechanisms are denial, rationalization, and displacement. There are three denials which are used by him. First, he lies to Skylar about his family. Second, he does not recognize that he loves Skylar. Third, he denies that he is a trouble man. There are two rationalizations: he refuses the invitation from Skylar to go to California and he lies to Professor Gerald Lambeau about his meeting with McNeils. Lastly, there is one displacement used by him. He displaces his anxiety by drinking with his friends in the bar.

4.2 SUGGESTION

The writer realizes that this graduating paper is so far from perfect. There are a lot of mistakes and human errors; however, the writer still hopes that this graduating paper can be references for everyone who has the same object and different analysis. The writer suggests for the next writers who take this movie as an object of their research to use this study as a basic or additional reference with the different problems perspective. This movie tells an interesting story. In this research, the writer analyzes the anxiety and defense mechanism by applying psychoanalysis theory. Therefore, there are many issues that can be analyzed by other researchers using different theory. The writer suggests to other researchers to apply feminist theories, psychoanalysis theories.



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