

Fear Within C.S. Lewis in *Shadowlands* Novel: The Pain of Losing

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The researcher analyses the fear emotion which C. S. Lewis experiences when his life starts to change after he meets a woman named Joy, whom later becomes his wife. The fear which is experienced by C. S. Lewis can strongly affect him and makes him question his God, whom he never questioned before. It is interesting because C. S. Lewis has lectured many times before in church or in a Christianity community about pain and suffering, yet he ends up asking the same question as his audiences ever asked to him. The researcher uses one of narratology methods to analyse the discourses which are found, which is focalization. The focalization will help finding the fear and analysing the depth of fear emotions from the usage of words like *discomfort*, *anxiety*, *hesitation*, *dared not*. Then, the researcher uses Psychoanalysis theory by Sigmund Freud to find out what kind of fear which are found. In Psychoanalysis theory, fear is classified into real fear and neurotic fear. Whereas real fear is rational and comprehensible, neurotic fear is irrational and expectant. Then, the researcher finds the result of this research. The result shows that fear emotion which is experienced by C. S. Lewis are all real fear, and the fear experienced are deep.

Keywords: *Shadowlands* novel by Leonorce Fleischer, Psychoanalysis, Focalization and Fear.

1. BACKGROUND OF STUDY

Literature has been a big concern since a long time ago. According to the observation conducted by Simon and Delse Ryan (2014), they stated 'the quest to discover a definition for "literature" is a road that is much travelled, though the point of arrival, if ever reached, is seldom satisfactory. Prose is one of literary works which are undoubtedly popular. The term 'prose' itself refers to all discourse, spoken or written, which is not patterned into lines either of metric verse or of free verse (Abrams, 288). Prose has many intrinsic elements which can not be separated and support each other. Prose and poetry are also literary works which require the reader to be imagining and expecting freely, and not limited by the author's perspective—as we are unconsciously limited to imagine about the situation and setting in plays. Of all types of prose, the writer takes interest in the novel. The plot, characters, theme, and setting in the novel are described in more detailed way than in the short story.

There is a novel, a romantic one, which is published in the late of 20th century named *Shadowlands*. The story is written by Leonore Fleischer. The story interesting because it is rare to find a novel with middle-aged man as the main character, moreover he experiences his first love. This story is also interesting because the story mostly talks about love. Love can be found every day in this human's life. Love for God, love for the family, love for knowledge and science. Love will always be an interesting topic all the time, love from a single person to another person, and vice versa. The third point is the fear which is experienced by C. S. Lewis in this story can make him question his God, which he never does. It is also interesting because a good believer can question his belief when he feels fear.

The researcher takes C.S. Lewis's characterization as the main concern of this research, especially his fear emotion. Fear is a feeling which is experienced by every single person in this world. In this novel, C.S. Lewis feels fear to lose someone he loves once again.

The fear that grows within himself can grow bigger and overwhelms him. According to Freud, the fear which grows within C.S. Lewis is a reaction to the perception of external danger (1920), which in this case, is Joy's death. His fear of losing his beloved wife somehow changes his belief towards God. He keeps on questioning why his beloved wife experiences such pain his God. He, as a believer and the person who gives lectures in church should not lose his belief even though he is pressured with the trials given. Rather, he should be able to overcome the problem and fear he feels. Yet, he chooses to question his God because of the fear that he feels.

Holy Quran has mentioned about how trials are given to those who have strong faith towards their creator in Surah Al-Ankabut :2-3.

أَحْسِبَ النَّاسُ أَنْ يُتْرَكُوا أَنْ يَقُولُوا آمَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ ﴿٢﴾
 وَلَقَدْ فَتَنَّا الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ فَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ
 الْكٰذِبِينَ ﴿٣﴾

“2. Do men think that they will be left alone on saying, "We believe", and that they will not be tested? We did test those before them, and Allah will certainly know those who are true from those who are false (Yusuf Ali, 1938).”

2. METHODS OF RESEARCH

The researcher uses a qualitative method for doing this research. The wrier takes interest in analyzing the characterization of the character, which is why the research would not result in numeral (quantity). The researcher has two main data sources, which are primary data and secondary data. Primary data source of this research is *Shadowlands* novel written by Leonorce Fleischer and secondary data sources are books, journals, articles, and internet sources. The researcher does Library Research to collect data for this research. The researcher reads *Shadowlands* novel then finds some discourses which contain some words which are related to fear or show fear of C.S. Lewis, such as word “fear”, “terror”, “worry”, “anxiety”, “horror”, “terror”, “nervous”, etc. Then, The researcher analyses the data in some steps. First, the researcher finds the focalization for each discourse, and analyse the words to find the intensity of fear. Then, the researcher uses Psychoanalysis theory to classify the data to real fear and neurotic fear. There are two variables which will indicate real fear, they are rational and comprehensible. Meanwhile, there is a variable which will prove the neurotic fear, it is expectant or irrational.

3. ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the researcher analyses and classifies some discourses based on their type of fears according to Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis theory. Yet, first, the researcher found the discourses that will be discussed by using focalization method.

The researcher finds some discourses using focalization method in *Shadowlands* novel, a novel written by Leonorce Fleischer. It tells about C.S Lewis, a middle-aged man who works as a lecturer in Oxford. He also writes the popular, best-seller book, Narnia. The narrator describes his life as a perfect life. He has a good job, he has a good mind, he has money, and he reaches the age of fifty without much trouble or broken heart. One day, he has agreed to meet his fan who writes a letter for him. The fan happens to be a married American woman, a Jew who has converted to Chistianity. Warnie, his older brother accompanies him. The woman agrees to meet C.S. Lewis in Oxford. Yet, he who never acquaintes with a woman before feels really nervous as the narrator describes it below.

“Jack Lewis sat calmly, his eyes on the tearoom entrance. Inside, however, he was feeling a little something of what Warnie was feeling, mingled with his own discomfort. Jack's

emotions were mixed- intrigued yet apprehensive. He, too, was having misgivings, was wishing that this occasion were behind him, only a memory. Perhaps he'd been too hasty in agreeing to this meeting. There was a vast difference between exchanging a few friendly words with a fan after one of his talks, and actually sitting down with one over a teapot, face to face, one on one . . . or, rather, one on two, if you counted Warnie. Who knew what this clever woman might be expecting from him?" (1993:42)

From above, it can be seen that the discourse has external focalizer (EF) to present the vision to the reader. Then, the researcher finds the word related to fear, which is "discomfort". The researcher finds that narrator tries to explain C.S. Lewis's feeling of discomfort by saying "feeling a little something of what Warnie was feeling" rather than just say "feeling discomfort" directly. C.S. Lewis's feeling is described in detailed way to raise the intensity of the discomfort feeling. The researcher also finds the word "apprehensive" which means "worried or frightened that something unpleasant may happen" (Oxford, 2010). It also indicates the fear emotion. Then, the researcher finds the word "misgivings" which means "feelings of doubt or anxiety about what might happen, or about whether or not something is the right thing to do" (Oxford, 2010). It proves that C.S. Lewis feels overly anxious about the meeting with the stranger woman. And then, EF compares two situations in "There was a vast difference between exchanging a few friendly words with a fan after one of his talks, and actually sitting down with one over a teapot, face to face, one on one . . . or, rather, one on two, if you counted Warnie." The EF aims to raise the discomfort feeling by using one safe situation to compare.

As well as fear, there is also the feeling of "intrigued" and "apprehensive" which are mentioned in the paragraph. According to OALD, "intrigued" means "very interested in something or somebody and wanting to know about it" (2010). Even though he feels fear that the meeting with the American woman might turn into something that he doesn't want or something bad, he also feels curious, wants to meet the American woman so badly. It is described in the next paragraph which tells "This American woman Joy Gresham wrote clever letters that made him laugh, and he found himself a little curious enough to agree to have tea with her." (Fleischer, 1993:43).

After analysing through the focalization, the researcher can conclude that this fear is classified as real fear. The fear is rational because it has reason and it is comprehensible because it can be understood. The researcher finds the reason behind C.S. Lewis's discomfort is the meeting between him and a clever woman which is going to happen soon. At the end, he wonders what the women might expect from him, which also indicates a feeling of worry. Thus, C.S. Lewis feels that the decision of the meeting is really quick to be made, he shows it with the word "hasty". The word "hasty" means "made or done very quickly, especially when this has bad result".

Later, the story develops the relationship between C.S. Lewis and this strange woman named Joy. After some talk at The Kilns, C. S. Lewis grows more of fond to Joy, whom has to return to America. Then, the researcher finds another discourse which shows the fear of C. S. Lewis.

"After Joy Gresham sailed back to the United States, an unexpected silence fell between them. Jack was certain he'd be hearing from her any day, and eagerly scanned every morning's and afternoon's post for the tissue-thin blue airmail envelope, that familiar handwriting. Every day, dozens of letters arrived for him from all over the globe, but not one of them was from Joy. January gave away to February, Christmas was only a fading memory, and still no word from Joy. Jack Lewis's most faithful correspondent had apparently deserted him, and he had no idea why. Although he would not have admitted it, even to himself, he felt abandoned.

Because Joy wasn't writing to him, Jack couldn't bring himself to write to her, deeming it intrusive. He missed the wit and sparkle of her letters; he missed the challenges she presented to his way of thinking, the intellectual give-and-take that had developed between them. It was as though a window had opened into his life, bringing it with draft of fresh, invigorating air. Now that window was shut again. It seems to Lewis that an enjoyable conversation had been abruptly and mysteriously broken off. But it was more than that, and he dared not own up to it.

It was Warnie who, in his customary simple and direct way, put it into words. One day, "You miss her, don't you?" Warnie asked sympathetically. He'd just brought the morning post into the study where Jack was working, and it pained him to watch his brother drop what he was doing and rifle through the letters with such expectation, and to see the expectation die away in disappointment." (1993:109)

From three paragraphs above, it can be concluded that it has external focalizer to present the vision to the reader. The first paragraph shows the reader about the "unexpected silence" between C.S. Lewis and Joy Gresham, who sails back to the United States. EF uses "silence" to describe the situation between C.S. Lewis and Joy Gresham. According to OALD, "silence" means "the situation in which people do not communicate with each other by letter or telephone." (Oxford, 2010).

Then, on the second paragraph, the word "miss" is used twice to emphasize the feeling. It can be more intense than "missing", yet still less than "longing". But then, it is stated that "it was as though a window had opened into his life, bringing it with draft of fresh, invigorating air. Now that window was shut again." The word "window" can be interpreted as "something used to see the outside world or to allow the air and light come in" and it is proven later with "bringing it with draft of fresh, invigorating air". Then, "the window was shut again" will only leave the room "dark" or "stuffy". At the end of the paragraph, EF states that "but it was more than that, and he dared not own up to it", which the paraphrase "dared not" appears, related to "fear". It uses "dared not" which is the negation of the word "dare", the intensity is still lower than "fear" or "anxious".

Then, in the last paragraph, the focalization has two levels, it first has external focalizer (EF) but later shifts to Warnie's point of view as internal focalizer (CF) in the sentence "and it pained him to watch his brother drop what he was doing and rifle through the letters with such expectation, and to see the expectation die away in disappointment." It clearly states that the vision shifts to Warnie's after the word "watch" because the reader will see C.S. Lewis from Warnie's point of view.

In these three paragraphs, it is clearly stated that C.S. Lewis feels fear with the word "dared not". According to OALD, the word "dare" itself means "to be brave enough to do something". Meanwhile, C.S. Lewis feels "dared not own up to it" which means he doesn't feel brave to admit something. Later, Warnie forces C.S. Lewis to admit that he misses Joy. In the previous paragraph, it has been explained that C.S. Lewis feels abandoned by Joy who leaves and suddenly disappears without any news. Yet, he still waits for her news every day, thinks of her and rifles through those letters to find Joy's letter which are not there, but he doesn't want to admit that he misses her. The reason why C.S. Lewis doesn't want to admit it because he doesn't want to feel abandoned by Joy again and starts to deny his feeling. The reason behind the fear is rational, because C.S. Lewis feels danger upon himself to feel hurt if he misses Joy, and it is comprehensible because C.S. Lewis thinks of Joy as his most faithful correspondent, yet she doesn't give him any news since Christmas and C.S. Lewis feels betrayed because of that.

The researcher finds the story starts to get into the climax. After some time of hesitation after the dispute, C. S. Lewis decides to call Joy, regardless of what the woman

may speak of him. Yet, Joy doesn't pick up the call. Here, the narrator shows that Joy is fainting because of her illness, yet C. S. Lewis doesn't know about that. It shows that the external focalizer's role is really strong. The narrator doesn't explain anymore, and then there is a new paragraph which shows that C. S. Lewis already knows that Joy is sick. The paragraph is written below.

"Jack Lewis spent the entire night in the London hospital, much of the time pacing up and down the brightly lit corridor outside Joy's room. He needed to give vent to his nervous energy. The first thing he'd done was to install Joy Gresham in a private room, and the devil with the expense or the free wards of the National Health! He also passed many long hours at Joy's bedside, watching her sleep deeply under the heavy injections of morphine. He thought he had never seen anyone so frail and vulnerable; all her vitality had disappeared, and she was so small and thin that he was afraid she would vanish away the next time he blinked. Joy's face was as white as the bleached hospital bed linen, and only her tumbled hair made a scattering of color on the pillow." (1993:160)

The narrator explains how C.S. Lewis tries to ease his nerve energy by pacing up and down the corridor and then it shifts to explain what he is doing in Joy's room. In the sentence "He thought he had never seen anyone so frail and vulnerable; all her vitality had disappeared, and she was so small and thin that he was afraid she would vanish away the next time he blinked", the narrator uses the words "frail", "vulnerable", "small", "thin" to describe the word "fragile" or "weak". Then, the narrator also uses the sentence "he was afraid she would vanish away the next time he blinked" shows the intensity of the weakness C.S. Lewis thinks as Joy's is high. Then, in the last sentence, it says "Joy's face was as white as the bleached hospital bed linen, and only her tumbled hair made a scattering of color on the pillow." This shows that Joy is described very-ill, pale and almost without color. It will be more intense to describe it that way than to directly say "pale". The word "afraid" written in the paragraph indicates fear. The intensity of weakness makes the fear rises higher.

This time, the researcher finds some words and paraphrases which indicate C.S. Lewis's fear, which are "nervous energy" and "afraid". According to OALD, "nervous" means "anxious about something or afraid of something". It can be implied that C.S. Lewis tries hard to be calm and not to be too anxious by pacing up and down the corridor. Then, he is "afraid". "afraid" means "feeling fear, frightened because you think you might be hurt or suffer" (Oxford, 2010).

In the hospital, C.S. Lewis passes long hours by Joy's bedside and observes Joy that he describes her as "frail" and "vulnerable". "frail" means "physically weak and thin", and "vulnerable" means "weak and easily hurt physically and emotionally". It can be implied then that C.S. Lewis feels fear, and the reason behind it is because Joy collapsed and he finds the woman looks weak and might be easily hurt. The researcher finds the fear is rational because the reason is clear, and it can be understood so it is comprehensible.

The story continued to C. S. Lewis's fear which was shown and witnessed by Warnie. The fears were mostly disguised before, but now Warnie could tell that C. S. Lewis was feeling fear because of the obviousness.

"Now Warnie understood what his brother was trying to tell him. Jack loved Joy. At last, after years of evasion and denial, he had fallen in love and was finally face himself and the truth he'd been suppressing. Now he was terrified of losing her." (1993:163)

The paragraph uses external focalizer (EF) again to present the vision of the event. This time, the narrator shows that Warnie thinks that C.S. Lewis has finally faced the truth and passed the years of denial that he always avoids admitting he loves Joy. The narrator uses "evasion and denial" which means "avoiding something and refusing to admit something", in the contrary to the next sentence "he had fallen in love and was finally face himself and the

truth he'd been suppressing" raising the intensity of the feeling because of the word "supress" which means "to prevent something for being published or made known" (Oxford, 2010). The expression of fear in this sentence marked by the word "terrified", and the word "terrified" intensity of fear is higher than "anxiety" or "fear", shows the situation is quite serious.

The word "denial" and "terrified" are shown in the discourse above. According to OALD, "denial" means "a refusal to accept that something pleasant is true", and "terrified" means "very frightened". It can be seen that C.S. Lewis tries hard to deny something before, which is his love for Joy. And then after years of reppresing the truth, he finally admits it. Yet, after he admits his love, he feels very frightened to lose her. C.S. Lewis emotions shown here, first is the denial. He denies because he feels afraid of something unpleasant happens to him. And then he accepts that unpleasant feeling, but he faces another fear, which is fear of losing the one he loves. From that above, it can be implied that C.S. Lewis fear is rational and comprehensible.

The researcher also found the usage of intensed words like in the paragraph below.

"I don't want to lose you, Joy." Jack wrenched the words from the misery in his heart; there was no way they could express the despair that threatened to overwhelm him. (1993:169)

The discourse above uses external focalizer (EF) to present the vision to the readers. The word "don't want" which indicates fear is inside the dialogue, so it uses mimesis technique, yet the words "misery", "despair", "threaten" and "overwhelm" are outside the dialogue, so the author uses Diegesis technique to express the fear. Then, the researcher finds out the intensity of each word. First, "I don't want to lose you, Joy" doesn't have a strong intensity of fear because it is in direct sentence, said by the character, not the thought, which can be manipulated by the character. Then, the sentence "Jack wrenched the words from the misery in his heart" shows the high intensity of the feeling. The word "wrench" means "pulling something out violently" (Oxford, 2010) and rather than to say "Jack speaks from within his heart", this clearly is more intense. And then, the word "despair", "threaten", and "overwhelm" are used. The words have the high intensity of feeling, and since they are used in one sentence, it shows the high intensity or the seriousness of the events.

From the discourse above, the researcher finds the word "despair", "threaten" and "overwhelm". According to OALD, "despair" means "the feeling of having lost all hope", "threaten" means "to say that you will cause trouble, hurt somebody, etc, if you don't get what you want", and "overwhelm" means "to have such a strong emotional effect on somebody that it is difficult for them to resist or know how to react".

C.S. Lewis pours his fear into words, but he thinks they will not be able to express the feeling in his heart. He feels the despair, he loses all the hope, and it is strongly effects him. He feels fear because he doesn't want to lose Joy, and the fear is really strong this time. The researcher finds the fear which he feels is rational because there is a strong reason behind it, and it can be understood so it is comprehensible.

As the story follows, knowledge and experience will influence the feeling of fear which C. S. Lewis feels. If he and Joy shares the same bedroom before they are legally married, the intensity of fear will absolutely be higher. Yet, because he grows familiarity with Joy, the tension is reduced. Then, after some months have passed, Joy's cancer seems to eat her body. One day, one long moan escapes her lips, and that time, C. S. Lewis realizes that he can't escape from reality again. Joy finally returns to the hospital.

"Jack spent all his waking hours at her side, trying not to appear anxious." (1993:243)

It is clearly shown that the sentence has external focalizer (EF) to present the vision to the reader. The action "spent all his waking hours at her side" is visible and can be seen by other character too. "trying not to appear anxious" is not visible but it can be categorized as

“non-perceptible”. It has quite high in intensity since “he is trying not to appear anxious” means “he is actually anxious but he surpress it”, showing bias towards C. S. Lewis. The situation is different rather than saying “he is anxious but he hides it”.

In the sentence above, there is the word “anxious”. As it has been explained before, the word “anxious” is very related to “fear”. Here, C.S. Lewis tries not to appear anxious, which shows that he is actually anxious, by spending all his hours at Joy’s side. As it has been mentioned before, Joy is still sick and C.S. Lewis spends his time nursing Joy and stays by her side all the time. The fear which C.S. Lewis feels is rational and comprehensible.

4. CONCLUSION

The researcher uses discourse as the smallest unit data and fear in psychoanalysis by Sigmund freud as the theory. Then, the researcher uses focalization as the method to analyse the discourse. The researcher finds out that the data mostly using external focalization (EF) and Diegesis technique in expressing the fear emotion, because there are a lot of C.S. Lewis’s thoughts and feeling rather than action and dialogue. The researcher then concludes the fear is intense, because the fear is explained with words and feelings, and the fear experienced by C.S. Lewis is all are real fear, and none of them is neurotic fear. After analysing through all the fears which are experienced by C.S. Lewis, it can be proven that the fears are all rational and comprehensible. By rational and comprehensible means it has reason and the reason can be understood. It can be concluded that C.S. Lewis’s fear always has the reason and since he is a male, it can be related to masculinity.

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