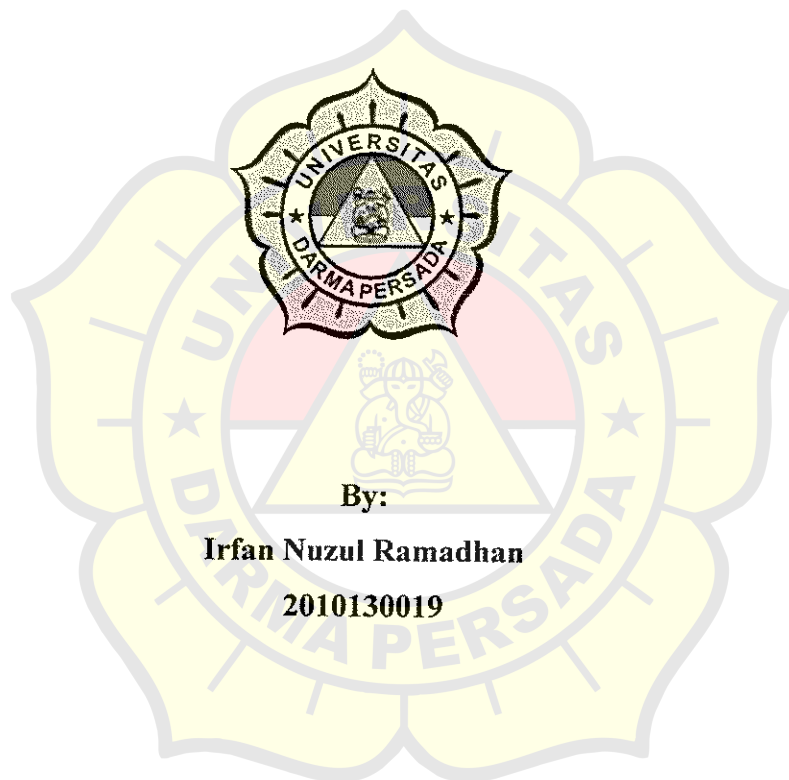


**THE FAMILY CONFLICT THAT LEADS TO THE DEPRESSION AND  
DEATH INSTINCT OF KURT COBAIN  
IN *THE HEAVIER THAN HEAVEN* BIOGRAPHY  
BY CHARLESS R CROSS**

TERM PAPER

Submitted in part - fulfilling for obtaining  
Strata One (S-1) Degree



By:

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JAKARTA  
2015**

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY STATEMENT PAGE

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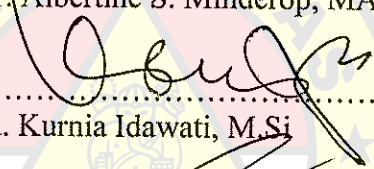
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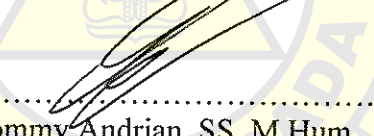
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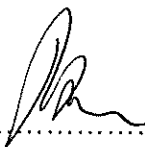
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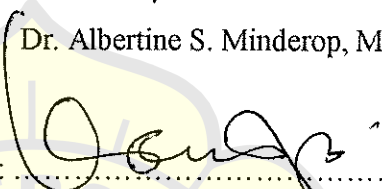
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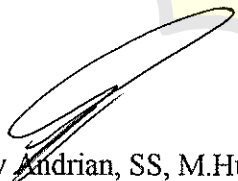
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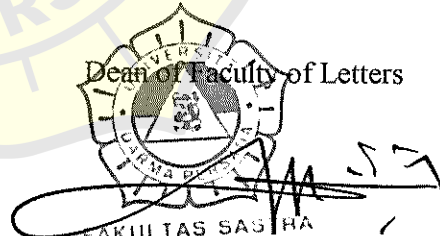
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## PREFACE

*Alhamdulillahirabbil 'aalamiin*, I praise and gratitude to Allah SWT who has given the mercy and blesses to me to be able to finish my term paper entitled "*The Family Conflict that Brought Depression and Death Instinct of Kurt Cobain in Heavier than Heaven by Charles R. Cross*".

This term paper is submitted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for obtaining the Strata One (S1) degree. Behind the making process of this term paper, there were a number of incredible people who always guide and support me in my hard times.

On account of that, I would like to say a lot of gratitude to them, those incredible people are:

1. Dr. Albertine Minderop, MA as the adviser who guided me patiently in making my term-paper, your suggestions and your help have a role important.
2. Dra. Kurnia Idawati, M.Si the academic adviser and also the reader.
3. Mr. Tommy Andrian, SS, M.Hum as the head of English department.
4. Mr. Syamsul Bachri, SS, M.Si as the Dean of faculty of letters.
5. All lecturers in Faculty of Letters, English Department. I cannot thank you enough to God for sending me lecturers who give me much knowledge.
6. My beloved Family. I owe many things to Mulyantio as my father, Lilis Nurliah as my mother, all of my siblings, grandparents, uncles, and aunties that I can not mention one by one, but it does not lessen my respect to all of you who always support me to finish my term paper and give the best wishes to all of my college life in my study. *Jazakumullahukhairan*.
7. I am very grateful that Allah SWT sends me incredible friends who want to make a good friendship with me; Ozan, Aqil, Andri, Luthfi, Abu, Wahyu and all member of WAMO family. I am glad that you all can understand my silliness and stupidity. I thank to all of you for always standing next to me in the process of writing this term paper.
8. I thank to Fikri, Joko, Mudin, Fandi, Faris and Arya, Memei, Vivi, Widya, Dini and all member of Xerox family for being wonderful classmates who can

make me laugh. Three years with you all will be one of the greatest times of my life.

Overall, I realize if this term paper is far from being perfect. I hope this term paper is useful for the readers.

Jakarta August 28<sup>th</sup> 2015

Writer

Irfan Nuzul Ramadhan



## ABSTRAK

*Nama* : Irfan Nuzul Ramadhan  
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*Judul* : *The Family Conflict that Leads to Depression and Death Instinct of Kurt Cobain in Heavier than Heaven by Charles R Cross*

*Skripsi ini membahas tentang analisis sebuah biografi yang menggunakan pendekatan ekstrinsik. Melalui pendekatan ekstrinsik, teori yang digunakan adalah teori Inner Conflict oleh Carl Jung dan konsep depresi dan naluri kematian. Dari analisis ini, menggambarkan tentang sebuah konflik keluarga yaitu perceraian orang tua yang mengakibatkan depresi dan berujung pada naluri kematian terhadap Kurt Cobain. Penelitian ini adalah berbagai penelitian kualitatif, jenis penelitian kepustakaan, interpretatif/analisis dengan menggunakan metode pengumpulan data berupa teks sastra dari boigraphy Heavier than Heaven karya Charles R. Cross sebagai sumber utama dan didukung oleh beberapa literatur untuk menghubungkan teori, konsep dan definisi yang relevan sebagai sumber sekunder.*

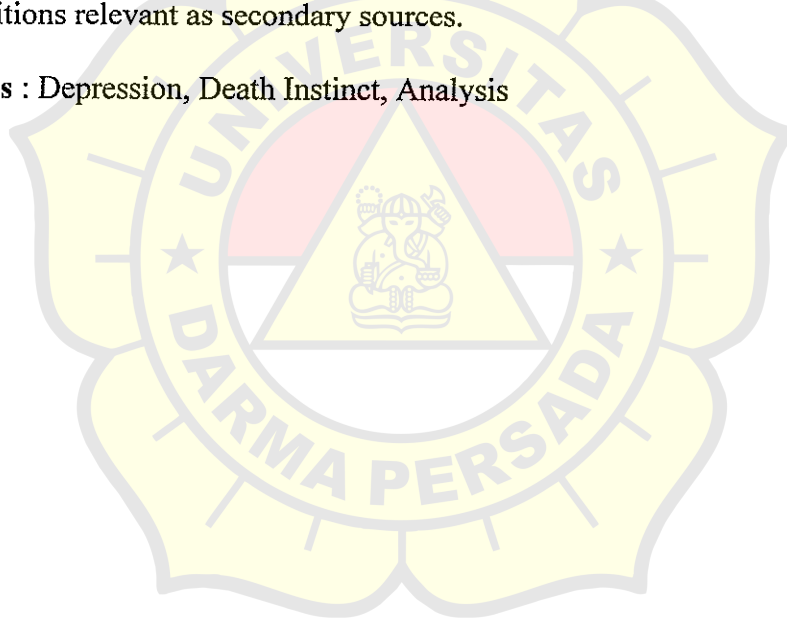
***Kata kunci*** : *Depresi, Naluri Kematian, dan Analisis*

## ABSTRACT

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Study Program : English Department / Strata One (S-1)  
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Title : The Family Conflict that Leads to Depression and Death  
Instinct of Kurt Cobain in "Heavier than Heaven" by  
Charles R Cross

This paper discusses the analysis of a biography that use extrinsic approach. Through extrinsic approach, the theory used is the theory of Inner Conflict by Carl. Jung and the concept of depression and death instincts. This study describes about family conflict that parental divorce causes a depression and led to the death instinct to Kurt Cobain. This study is a variety of qualitative research, type of research literature, interpretative / analysis using the method of data collection in the form of a literary text biography Heavier than Heaven by Charles R. Cross as the main source and supported by some literature to connect theories, concepts and definitions relevant as secondary sources.

**Keywords** : Depression, Death Instinct, Analysis





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Cover Page .....	i
Intellectual Property Statement Page .....	ii
Test Feasibility Property Statement Page .....	iii
Approval Page .....	iv
Preface .....	v
<i>Abstrak</i> .....	vii
Abstract .....	viii
Table of Contents .....	ix
<b>CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
A. Background of the Research .....	1
B. Identification of the Problem .....	3
C. Limitation of the Problem .....	3
D. Statement of the Problem .....	4
E. Objectives of the Problem .....	4
F. Framework of the Theories .....	4
G. Methods of the Research .....	9
H. Benefits of the Research .....	10
I. Systematic Organization of the Research .....	10
<b>CHAPTER II BIOGRAPHY OF KURT COBAIN</b> .....	<b>12</b>
A. Kurt Cobain's Profile .....	12
B. Kurt Cobain's Childhood .....	14

C. From the Small Stage to Popularity .....	20
D. Kurt Cobain's Career .....	22
E. Summary of Chapter 2 .....	28
 <b>CHAPTER III THE ANALYSIS OF INNER CONFLICT BROUGHT</b>	
<b>DEPRESSION AND DEATH INSTINCT IN KURT</b>	
<b>COBAIN LIFE .....</b>	
<b>A. Kurt Cobain's Inner Conflict .....</b>	<b>31</b>
1. Feeling Disappointment .....	31
a. Kurt Cobain's Disappointment of Parents' Divorce.....	32
b. Kurt Cobain's Disappointment from His Father's Second Marriage.....	33
c. Kurt Cobain's Expulsion and Disappointment to His Mother	34
2. The Impact of Parents' Divorce .....	35
a. Kurt Cobain's Life after the Divorce .....	35
b. Kurt Cobain's Secession after the Split of His Parents .....	35
c. Kurt Cobain's Escapements in Music and Drugs .....	36
<b>B. The Reflection of Depression .....</b>	<b>37</b>
1. Kurt Cobain's Manic Phases .....	38
a. Kurt Cobain's Spirit and Ambition .....	39
b. Kurt Cobain's Death Wish.....	39
c. Kurt Cobain's Worsening Physical Condition.....	41
d. Kurt Cobain's Over-acting Condition .....	42
e. Kurt Cobain's Overconfidence .....	43

2. Kurt Cobain's Depressive Phases .....	43
a. Kurt Cobain's Chronic Disease .....	44
b. Kurt Cobain's Unconcerned Condition .....	44
c. Kurt Cobain's Exclusion to Social Life .....	45
d. Kurt Cobain's Boring Hobbies .....	46
e. Kurt Cobain's Suicide Plan .....	47
C. Kurt Cobain's Death Instinct Reflection .....	47
1. Kurt Cobain's Aggressive Behavior .....	48
a. Kurt Cobain's Anger at His Band Mates .....	48
b. Kurt Cobain's Anger at His Fans .....	49
2. Kurt Cobain's Destructive Behavior .....	50
a. The Use of Heroin in Large Doses .....	50
b. Kurt Cobain's Drugs Abuse .....	51
c. Kurt Cobain's Committing Suicide .....	51
D. Summary of Chapter 3 .....	52
<b>CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION .....</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>SCHEME OF THE RESEARCH .....</b>	
<b>BIODATA .....</b>	

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of Research

Charles R. Cross was born in Richmond, Virginia, The United State and he graduated from the University of Washington<sup>1</sup>. Charles R. Cross is a rock journalist and author who is based in Seattle. Charles is the founder of Backstreets Magazine, a magazine for fans of Bruce Springsteen; editor of "Springsteen: Man and His Music," a compilation of Backstreets articles, and biographies of Kurt Cobain, titled Heavier than heaven.

Kurt Donald Cobain was born on twentieth of February, 1967, in hospital on hill overlooking Abardeen, Washington. His parents lived in neighboring Hoquiam, but it was appropriate that Abardeen stands as Kurt's birthplace. His parents, Don and Wendy, lived in a tiny bungalow. It was in south across the Chehalis River. It was a cosmopolitan where his mother's family, the Fradenburgs, came from. At the time of Kurt's birth its economy was slowly contracting. The country was one of the few in the state with a declining population. The timber industry had begun to suffer the consequences of offshore competition and over-logging. Unemployment exacted a darker social price on the community in the form alcoholism, domestic violence and suicide.

Kurt's 21-years-old father, Don, worked at the Chevron station in Hoquiam as a mechanic. Don was handsome and athletic, but with his flattop haircut and buddy holly-style glasses. Kurt's 19-years-old mother, Wendy, in contrast, was a classic beauty who looked and dressed a bit like Marcia Brady. They had met in high school, where Wendy had a nickname "Brezze". The previous June, just a week after her high school graduation, Wendy had become pregnant. Don borrowed his father's sedan and invented an excuse so the two could travel to Idaho and marry without parental consent.

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.harpercollins.com/author/microsite/about.aspx?authorid=35783>

In September 1969, when Kurt was two and half, Don and Wendy bought their first home at 1210 East First Street in Abardeen, it was a middle-class house in a middle-class neighborhood. Kurt was three when his sister Kimberly was born. She look even as infant, Kurt insisted on his sister, he loves her so much. Having two children changed the dynamic of Cobain household, and what a little leisure time they had taken up by visit with family or Don's interest in intramural sports.

The stress on the family increased in 1974, when Don Cobain decided to change jobs and enter the timber industry. Don wasn't a large man, and he didn't have much interest in cutting down 200-foot trees, so he took an office position at Mary Brothers. He knew eventually he could make more money in timber than working at the service station; unfortunately, his first job was entry level, paying \$4.10an hour, even less than he'd made as a mechanic. He picked up extra money doing inventory at the mill on weekends, and he'd frequently take Kurt with him. On March 29 Don was served with a summons and a "Petition for Dissolution of Marriage." A slew of legal documents would follow; Don would frequently fail to respond, hoping against hope Wendy would change her mind. On July 9 he was held in default for not responding to Wendy's petitions.

On that same day, a final settlement was granted awarding the house to Wendy but giving Don a lien of\$6,500, due whenever the home was sold, Wendy remarried, or Kim turned eighteen. Don was granted his 1965 Ford half-ton pickup truck; Wendy was allowed to keep the family 1968 Camaro. To Kurt, it was an emotional holocaust—no other single event in his life had more of an effect on the shaping of his personality.

He internalized the divorce, as many children do. The depth of his parents' conflicts had been primarily hidden from him, and he couldn't understand the reason for the split. "He thought it was his fault, and he shouldered much of the blame." It was traumatic for Kurt, as he saw everything he trusted in his security, family, and his own maintenance unravel in front of his eyes. Rather than outwardly express his anguish and grief, Kurt turned inward. That June, Kurt

wrote on his bedroom wall: "I hate Mom, I hate Dad. Dad hates Mom, Mom hates Dad. It simply makes you want to be so sad."

I am conducting a research of a book, *Heavier Than Heaven* by Charles R. Cross on a biography famous musician, Kurt Donald Cobain. In this book, I am interested in conducting a research in the miserable life of the legendary figure when he was 9 years old. In his childhood, the young Kurt had to experience a range of problems that arose as a result of his parents' divorce which in the end gave the impact of depression to young Cobain and encouraged him to use drugs and liquor that became the effect of his death.

#### **B. Identification of the Problem**

Based on the background of the problem, I identify that the depression was a result of Kurt Cobain's family problems, which was his parents' divorce. It makes young Kurt experience a childhood with a polemic caused by the divorce of his parents, which encouraged him to use drugs and alcohol. My assumption toward this literature is a family conflict that brings into depression and the death instinct to Kurt Cobain in a biography *Heavier than Heaven* written by Charles R. Cross.

#### **C. Limitation of the Problem**

According to the identification of the problem, I limit the problem of the research on the character of Kurt Cobain on the effect of parental divorce and depression that led to the death instinct. The theory and concept that I use is through extrinsic approach of the psychological literature. I use the psychology of personality, depression and death instincts.

#### **D. Statement of the Problem**

Based on the limitation of the problem, I formulate my assumption that the family conflict results in the depression and death instinct of Kurt Cobain. To answer these problems, I formulate the problem as follows:

1. Was Kurt Cobain's childhood filled with family problem?

2. Did family conflict make Kurt depressed?
3. Can the depression and death instinct as extrinsic concepts be applied to analyze the *Heavier than Heaven* by Charles R. Cross?

#### **E. Objectives of the Research**

Based on the statement of the problem, I state the objectives of the analysis that are:

1. To analyze Kurt Cobain's childhood that is filled with family problem.
2. To analyze family conflict that makes Kurt depressed.
3. To find out the depression and death instinct as extrinsic concepts able to be applied to analyze the *Heavier than Heaven* by Charles R. Cross.

#### **F. Framework of the Theories**

The theory and concept that I use to analyze the "*Heavier than Heaven*" by Charles R. Cross is the extrinsic concepts. Moreover, I use psychological literature. I use the theory of personality psychology on the depression and death instinct

##### Psychological Literature Approach

##### 1. Psychological Literature

Psychology comes from the Greek word psyche, which means soul and logos meaning science. So psychology means the science of life or science that investigates and studies human behavior<sup>2</sup>.

The basic assumption of psychology literature among others is influenced by the understanding that: first, a product of psychiatric literature. Author's imagination arising from the interpretation of the author thought the situation semiconscious and then poured into a conscious form. Second, the psychology literature analyzes the dispositive character. It is how far the author describes the dispositive character that literary works become more alive. The depiction can be seen through dialogue or diction figures in literature.

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<sup>2</sup>Atkinson, Hilgrad. 1996. *Pengantar Psikologi*. Erlangga. Jakarta P.7

In view of Wellek and Warren and Hardjana, the psychology literature has four research possibilities. First, a study of the psychology of the author is the type or a person. This study tends toward the psychology of art. The researcher is trying to catch a psychiatric condition at the time of bringing forth an author of literary works. Second, research the creative process in relation to psychiatric<sup>3</sup>.

This study is associated also with the psychology of the creative process. How the steps psychology when expressing literary work into focus. Third, research the laws of psychology as applied to literary works. In this regard can be directed studies on psychological theories such as psychoanalysis into a literary text. Assumption of this study that the author uses is certain psychological theories of creation. This study really raised the literary text as a study area. Fourth, the psychological impact study of literary texts to the reader. This study is more inclined towards pragmatic psychological aspects of literary texts to readers.

If the goal of research on aspects of creativity, researchers can perform these steps: first the extrinsic aspect, encompassing the ideals, desires, obsessions, hopes, and personal demands. The need for the author to know the life history of personal experience expressed in his work. Second, the background of the creation of literary works is needed to be explored, so, the author can determine why the author of the book wrote his work. Does the author simply shed his feelings, or whether there are another purpose. Third, researchers need to link the psychological impact of such works on the reader. Does the reader become familiar with the psychological description of characters or not.

#### a. The Inner Conflict Concept

The concept of inner conflict is introduced by Carl Gustav Jung in the book "Man and His Symbol". C .G Jung was a psychiatrist and pioneer of analytical psychology. His approach to psychology that is unique and widely influential in emphasizing the understanding of "psyche" through the exploration

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<sup>3</sup>Wellek dan Warren. *Theory of Literature*, New York: HARCOURT, BRACE AND COMPANY, 1993 p. 98-99



of the world of dreams, mythology, religion and philosophy<sup>4</sup>. The concept introduced by C. G. Jung is a contradiction contained in a person's heart due to the presence of two or more ideas or desires as a result of the conflict affect the behavior of an individual. In this literary work I use the concept as supporting concepts that will strengthen its other concepts.

The inner conflict is a contradiction contained in one's heart that causes two or more ideas or desires as a result of the conflict affects the behavior of an individual. The early stages of emotional development are full of potential conflict and disruption. Infancy and childhood are a time when everything is polarized into extremes of love and hate and when totally opposite, extreme *feelings* about them must be getting put together too.

It must be pretty confusing and painful. It's very difficult to discover you hate someone you love. Development involves integrating such primitive emotional conflicts, so that 'in the process of integration, impulses to attack and destroy, and impulses to give and share are related, the one lessening the effect of the other, until the point is reached at which the child may have made a satisfactory fusion of the idea of destroying the object with the fact of loving the same object.

#### b. The Depression Concepts

Depression concept introduced by Sigmund Freud who is the father of psychology. Freud believed was a turning inwards of aggression instincts. He theorized that a child's early attachment to an object, usually the mother, contains a mixture of love and hate. When a child loses the object or their dependency needs are frustrated feelings of loss coexist with anger. The experience is turned inward and experienced as depression<sup>5</sup>.

Most psychiatric terms have changed meaning over their history, and they are always partly dependent on language. Melancholia later became more clearly

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<sup>4</sup> C.G. Jung, *Man and His Symbols*, London 1964, p. 80

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.expandmind.com/freud.htm>

associated with the more modern idea of melancholy or despair. The alternation of melancholia and mania in what is now termed bipolar disorder or manic-depressive disorder. The term depression also began to appear in the 19th century, to indicate a state of sadness.

### 1. Bipolar Disorder or Manic Depressive Illness

Bipolar disorder or Manic - Depressive Illness (MDI) is one of the most common mental disorders that attack humans. MDI causes the sufferer to feel very enthusiastic and excited, as if he had endless energy. However, when the mood turned bad, the patient may experience depression to despair.

The new bipolar disorder arises when someone has hit their teens. This situation will be repeated if not done handling. According to some scientific studies published in the American Medical Association, a person has a risk of 8 to 18 times more likely to develop bipolar disorder if you have family members who suffer from bipolar disorder.

Human symptoms of bipolar disorder , namely , ( 1 ) Patients are not able to control mood felt ; ( 2 ) Patients too late with his emotions in the atmosphere long enough period of time , weeks or even for months ; ( 3 ) Patients seem too excited or too depressed in the not commonplace ; ( 4 ) People behave in a very impulsive and do not think about the risks .

#### a. Phases of manic

Manic phase is a phase in which the patient is experiencing excessive vigor and energy. If someone is having a manic phase then he will feel full of energy ready to do anything not invincible and ready to face anything stand in her way.

This phase can take place a few days up to several months before eventually being replaced by the next phase the phase of depression. For the depressive phase the symptoms of bipolar disorder patients will be more difficult to identify. Because if you have not experienced a manic phase more lay people regard it as depression alone. In fact, manic-depressive disorder more dangerous than depression.

### Manic Symptoms:

1. Patients often have a plan that is unreasonable and illogical
2. Decreased appetite and sleep hours drastically
3. Patients can stay up all night but no visible signs of fatigue
4. Talking very fast and frequently changing the subject
5. Confidence is very high
6. Frequent take decisions without thinking risks. As a result decisions are often detrimental
7. How to dress fickle

### b. Phase of Depressive

Depression is the opposite phase of manic phase. However many people who experience this phase more than the manic phase.

#### Depressive symptom:

1. Sad and frequent crying.
2. No matter the circumstances themselves. Do not want to shower change clothes, or even wanted just shut up alone.
3. Patients may have trouble sleeping (insomnia) or even too much sleep (hipersomnolens)
4. Many of the patients had no appetite on food and lose weight
5. Patients often have difficulty thinking and problems in his memory because he felt depressed
6. People isolate themselves from their social environment
7. Hobbies are usually done to relieve stress is no longer attractive to the patient
8. Always feel pessimistic, worthless, and hopeless
9. Patients can be affected by chronic diseases and other physical complaints without apparent cause.
10. The most severe, the patient can plan for committing suicide because they already do not have a purpose for living.

### c. The Death Instinct Concept

According to Freud's instinct is the power of the id expresses the ultimate goal of life of individual organisms. This is covered in fulfillment. Id is not able to bring in the aim of maintaining the life or protect the condition of the danger. It is the duty of the ego, including finding ways to meet the needs and satisfaction. Super ego to control those desires.<sup>6</sup>

According to Freud's concepts, Instinct is innate psychological representation of excitation (state of tension and arousal) as a result emerge a body needs. Shape instinct according to Freud is a reduction in the voltage (tension reduction), regressive and conservative character (strive to maintain balance) by improving the state of shortage. Instinct process repeated (quiet, tense and quiet) - repetition compulsion.<sup>7</sup>

The example of the above mechanisms is the body needs a drink. Then the psychic energy will be collected in a thirsty instincts and encourage individuals to satisfy his need for a drink. Stimulus from the inside, in the form of instincts, while the external stimulus, such as the treatment of other individual. According to Minderop, stimulus from the outside is not too strong for individuals who are affected will be avoided, but the external stimulus may affect one's personality.

Freud split instinct into several types, namely eros or life instinct and the destructive instinct or death instinct. Instinct life instinct is aimed at maintaining the ego (in Minderop Clark, 2010: 104). The instinct of life is manifested in the form of sexual behavior, support life and growth. Death instinct is the instinct that underlie the aggressive and destructive action. Death instinct can lead to suicide or self destruction or aggressive (attack) against others. Aggression can be divided into two, namely direct aggression and aggression is diverted. Direct aggression anger disclosure can be delivered directly to the listener, while redirected aggression can occur when a person experiences a sense of dissatisfaction to a source of frustration that is unclear or not touched.

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<sup>6</sup> Minderop, Albertine 2000 *Sastra dan Psikoanalisis Sigmund Freud*, Jakarta p.104

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., p.104

The word instinct (instinct) to Freud, is not simply a sense referred to by the word. Instinct for French people bring some sort of skill or understanding innate biological adaptation. For example, in animals that have a certain instinct. Wrong word is not capable of covering the human world, then use another term that Freud called Pulse. Toll-called sexual libido, while non-sexual pulse called alimony related to the desire to eat and drink, for example.<sup>8</sup>

#### **G. Methods of the Research**

The method I use in this term paper is qualitative methodology. The source is from written data, such as texts, books, and articles. After collecting those data, I examine and analyze the related data and theories. Then, I present the result of data analysis.

#### **H. Benefits of the Research**

This research is conducted in aiming to prove my assumption that the family conflict lead the depression and death instinct of Kurt Cobain in the *Heavier than Heaven* by Charles R. Cross. Also this research may help in conducting the following research of the *Heavier than Heaven* by Charles R.

#### **I. Systematic Organization of the Research**

This term paper is organized it as the following:

##### **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION.**

In this chapter, I explain about Background, Identification of the Problems, Limitation of the Problems, Statement of the Problems, Aim of the Research, Framework of the Theory, Methods of the Research, and Benefits of the Research about the analysis of a biography, "*Heavier Than Heaven*" by Charles R. Cross.

##### **CHAPTER TWO: THE PROFILE OF KURT COBAIN, HIS CHILDHOOD AND CAREER**

It consists of Kurt Cobain profile and life, the problems of family when childhood and his career in music.

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid., p.104

CHAPTER THREE: FAMILY CONFLICT THAT LEADS TO DEPRESSION  
AND DEATH INSTINCT OF KURT COBAIN IN THE  
HEAVIER THAN HEAVEN BY CHARLES R. CROSS

It consists of the analysis of the theme by using the result of  
extrinsic approach that is Depression and Death Instinct  
theory.

CHAPTER FOUR: CONCLUSION

It consists of conclusion which shows that the theme of this  
literature work is family conflict that brought depression  
and death Instinct.

