

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Problem

Mental health awareness has gained significant traction, particularly among adolescents, in recent years. The heightened focus on mental well-being has sparked a discourse filled with support and skepticism. While many young individuals openly advocate for mental health support and prioritize their emotional well-being, others face criticism and disbelief, particularly from older generations. Some people perceive the emphasis on mental health as an excuse for avoiding personal responsibility or exaggerating common life challenges. Amidst this ongoing discourse, it is crucial to acknowledge the profound impact of trauma, particularly on adolescents. Trauma, defined as an event or series of events that cause an overwhelming sense of fear, helplessness, or horror, can have debilitating consequences on an individual's mental, emotional, and behavioral well-being.

Mental health awareness has become increasingly important, not just for adolescents but for everyone. Recognizing the impact of trauma on individuals' lives is essential to provide the support and resources needed for healing and thriving. Understanding the psychological theories of trauma, along with implementing effective trauma-informed care approaches, can empower people of all ages to overcome challenges and build brighter futures. Early intervention and access to appropriate treatment can significantly improve mental well-being and overall quality of life.

Another supernatural thriller film will be released in 2023. *A Haunting in Venice* movie script, directed by Kenneth Branagh and written by Michael Green, is a film adapted from the work of the famous novelist Agatha Christie. This film is a sequel to *Murder On The Orient Express* and *Death On The Nile*. The script for this film was adapted from the novel 'Hallowe'en Party' (1969) by Agatha Christie with the setting changed to Venice, Italy.

Hercule Poirot, the fictional detective created by Agatha Christie, has captivated readers and audiences for more than a century. His genius in solving complicated and complex cases makes him one of the most famous detective characters in literary and film history. The film *A Haunting in Venice* movie script presents Poirot with a new adventure full of mystery and murder. Behind Poirot's genius and sharpness, there is a complexity of character that is interesting to explore. This thesis focuses on analyzing the character of Hercule Poirot in the film using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory.

Freud's theory of psychoanalysis offers a useful framework for understanding the complexity of human character. Freud suggested that human personality consists of three main structures: Id, Ego, and Superego. The id is a primitive part driven by instincts and desires. The ego is the part responsible for mediating between the Id and external reality. The superego is the part that represents morality and internal values. Freud also discussed self-defense mechanisms, namely strategies that individuals use to overcome anxiety and trauma. These self-defense mechanisms can take the form of denial, repression, projection, and rationalization.

A person's identity is deeply connected to their psychological makeup. Identity refers to the roles, goals, values, and beliefs we hold that give our lives meaning and direction. Erikson (1968) emphasized that identity allows us to accept ourselves and provides a compass for life. It is a bridge between our past experiences and future aspirations, shaping our personal and social meaning. While initial identity forms in late adolescence, it continues to evolve throughout life according to Kroger (2000). Through self-exploration and influenced by our environment, our sense of self (or ego in Freudian terms) develops during adolescence. Notably, traumatic events can significantly impact identity development. They can disrupt the natural course, challenge existing beliefs, and even influence our control over shaping our identity. As Berman (3) suggests, there's a clear link between identity development and frightening or traumatic experiences, with each influencing the other. This concept also aligns with the psychoanalytic approach by Sigmund Freud.

The psychoanalytic approach proposed by Sigmund Freud explained that someone will protect themselves from anxiety by using a defense mechanism in order to deal with their trauma. In this movie script, it is indicated that Hercule Poirot as the main character uses a self-defense mechanism in the form of repression.

This research focuses on an in-depth analysis of the defense mechanisms employed by Hercule Poirot in the film *A Haunting in Venice* movie script. Utilizing Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory as a foundation, this study aims to uncover how Poirot copes with past trauma, anxiety, and the challenges presented by an investigation involving supernatural elements. Understanding Poirot's defense mechanisms will not only provide new insights into his character but also enrich the study of fictional character psychology within the context of literature and film.

### **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

Based on the background above, this study focusing on the main character Hercule Poirot's psychological defense mechanisms within the film *A Haunting in Venice* movie script remains limited. This film presents a unique opportunity to explore how Poirot confronts past trauma and existential anxieties, as well as how he utilizes defense mechanisms in unusual situations. This research will identify the complexities of Poirot's defense mechanisms, analyze the influence of past trauma on his choice of mechanisms, explore how he navigates the challenges of a supernatural investigation using these mechanisms, understand how they shape his social interactions, and evaluate their effectiveness in helping him achieve his investigative goals.

### **1.3 Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification of the problem above, I limit the problem of the research to analyze the main character I used Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory and the analysis of defense mechanisms involves subjective interpretations of Poirot's dialogues, actions, and expressions, which may be influenced by the

researcher's perspective. I am focusing on the issues that Hercule Poirot had to return to work after retirement and experienced past trauma due to his work.

#### **1.4 Formulation of the Problem**

Based on the limitation of the problem above, I identify the formulation of the problem as follows:

1. What is the characterization of the main character elaborate with the concept of Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory of repression and defense mechanisms in “Haunted in Venice” movie script by Michael Green?
2. What is the plot and setting elaborate with the concept of Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory of repression and defense mechanisms in “Haunted in Venice” movie script by Michael Green?

#### **1.5 Objectives of the Research**

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the purpose of this research is to analyze *A Haunting in Venice* movie script by Michael Green through psychoanalytic theory. Therefore, the objectives of the research as follows:

1. To analyze the connection between the characterization of the main character by using the showing and telling method with the concept of psychoanalytic theory in *A Haunting in Venice* movie script by Michael Green
2. To analyze the relationship between psychoanalytic theory in constructing the plot and setting in *A Haunting in Venice* movie script by Michael Green

#### **1.6 Benefit of the Research**

This research is expected to provide the following benefits:

1. This research is submitted in the hope of fulfilling the requirements for obtaining *Sarjana Linguistik* (S.Li) degree.
2. This research is expected to provide information for those who are interested in the related topic of the Psychoanalytic

3. This research is also expected to be helpful as a reference for students in the literature field or any readers.
4. This research hopefully can be useful and encourage the literature students to study more about literature and gives some information which is concerning the movie through intrinsic and extrinsic approaches because have done with new thought and perspective by applying the field of literature which can be seen through movie, song, and prose and the Sigmund Freud's Psychoanalytic Theory.

### **1.7 Systematic Organization of the Research**

The framework of the term paper titled *Defense Mechanism of Hercule Poirot in the A Haunting in Venice movie script (2023) by Michael Green* is as follows:

#### **CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION**

This chapter consists of the phases of the research layout, such as the background of the problem, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, objective of the research, benefit of the research, and systematic organization of the research.

#### **CHAPTER 2 : THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

This chapter consists of the theoretical approach that is related to the research problem, which is as follows: “Intrinsic Analysis of Characterization, Plot, and Setting,” “Psychoanalysis Theory,” and “Defense Mechanisms Theory.”

#### **CHAPTER 3 : RESEARCH METHOD**

This chapter contains information about the research method used to analyze and arrange the research based on time and location, research approach and method, and data analysis technique.

**CHAPTER 4 : DEFENSE MECHANISM OF HERCULE POIROT IN A  
*HAUNTING IN VENICE (2023) BY MICHAEL GREEN***

This chapter explains the research problem analysis elaborated by Freud's theory.

**CHAPTER 5 : CONCLUSION**

This chapter gives the result of the research analysis and suggests the next researcher with a similar analysis topic.

