

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

In discussing psychological issues related to literature, there are some topics that are interested to be analyzed, one of them is about Alter ego. “Alter ego is Latin for “the other I” where it refers to a person’s second self or identity that is different from a normal individual’s personality” (Mesmer in Lanska and Lanska, 2010: 304). However, in a literary term, Abrams (2012: 34) described alter ego as a hidden identity, a secondary personality, or a secret life being led in addition to a normal life. Meanwhile Neyraut in Chervet (2010: 843) stated that “alter ego refers to the other subject’s identity”. In short, based on the explanations, it can be said that alter ego refers to the second personality that is possessed by individuals, whether in reality or described by author in a literary works.

Moreover, “the unique things about those different identities or personalities (alters) that each of them shows differences in speech, manners, attitudes, thoughts and gender orientation” (Phelps in Nurani. 2015: 4). In other word, when a person is experiencing an alter ego, he/she is not only change in speech and personality, but he/she also has different attitudes and manner regarding to gender as well. In that case, the writer finds out that alter ego is one of interesting topic. In accordance, the writer also found one of the literary works that discussed about alter ego from the movie entitled *Split* (2017).

The story of the movie tells about a man who all of sudden kidnap three teenage girls on parking lot. The man is later known as Kevin Wendell Crumb, a man who

possessed 23 different personalities. Although the story did not show in detail how personality of Kevin can be divided that many, but the number of personalities is mentioned by his therapist, Dr. Karen Fletcher. In the movie, it shows that the main personality that mostly take parts in Kevin's life in the movie is namely Dennis. However, according to Dr. Fletcher when he handled Kevin's personalities, another personality, namely Barry told her about their first existence, where it is all begin when Kevin's father died in train wreck when he was still a boy. After his father died, his mother who are very tempered often to hit Kevin when he did not clean his room or when he make house looks messy.

Further, Barry also told her that inside Kevin's mind, there are two personalities who actually forbid to enter Kevin's consciousness, one of them is Dennis and the other is Patricia. However, one of the personalities known as Hedwig is helping Dennis and Patricia to enter Kevin consciousness. Apparently, since Hedwig is a nine-year-old kid so that he can enter freely to Kevin's consciousness whenever he wants and he can give the control of consciousness to whoever he wants. Thus, along with the story, apparently Dennis, Hedwig and Patricia have plan to awaken the 24<sup>th</sup> personality known as "The Beast". Dennis told Dr. Fletcher that "The Beast" is coming and he is bigger and stronger than Dennis who later on will protect Kevin from anything. Thus, when the time has come where Dennis and Patricia will summon "The Beast", one of the kidnapped girl named, Casey, finds out that Kevin has more than one personalities from his computer files, where on the screen, there are around 23 diaries in the form of video with different name on it and each of the video showed similar person but different way of talk, manner and even appearance.

In the end, “The Beast” is successfully summoned by Dennis and Patricia and killed Dr. Fletcher and the other two kidnapped girls. In accordance, knowing that her friends are dead, Casey tries to escape from that place before “The Beast” killed her. Unfortunately, The Beast almost get her but Casey directly lock herself up on an iron cage. Finally, when The Beast wants to hurt Casey, he noticed that there are a lot of scars on Casey’s body so that The Beast decided not to hurt her because she is “pure” than the rest of her friends. Apparently, The Beast has his own criteria in choosing his victims.

Thus, regarding to the situation dealt by the main character, Kevin Wendell Crumb where he has 24 different personalities that is also assumed as “alter ego”, the writer chooses this movie as the object of research. In addition, regarding to the movie, the writer also interested in describing alter ego of Kevin, especially his most dominant personality from those 24 different personalities and how they (alters) can be created or awaken from single mind. Also, the writer hopes that the study of this research is able to help the readers to get more understanding of how the case of alter ego experienced by the character in a literary work.

## **1.2 Research Question**

According to the background of the study above, the writer formulates the research question as follow:

1. How are the portrayal of the most dominant personalities related to alter ego in the main character of *Split* movie?
2. What are the causes of alter ego in the main character in the *Split* movie?

### **1.3 Research Objectives**

Concerning to the statement of the problem above, the objectives of this study are to describe the most dominant personalities related to the alter ego possessed by the main character of *Split* movie and to describe the causes of alter ego in the main character in the *Split* movie.

### **1.4 Uses of Study**

#### **1.4.1 Theoretical Use**

Theoretically, this study can be used by other writers who conduct similar research as reference and also this study would contribute to the literature precisely analysis about the alter ego.

#### **1.4.2 Practical Use**

Practically, the research can give knowledge and information to the readers about alter ego and how it affects the character in a literary work. Moreover, the research also tells about the present condition of the sufferer and the symptoms also the causes of how alter ego or multiple personalities are created.

### **1.5 The Scope of Study**

In this research, the writer only focuses in describing the portrayal of 24 different personalities of the main character and describing the causes of Alter Ego as seen in the *Split* movie by using Mesmer's Theory.