

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Research

The term literature is used to describe anything from creative writing to a more technical or scientific works. Klarer (2004) defined that in most cases, literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression, within the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the word. In literature, a fictitious character created based on the creativity of its author, may have a very realistic traits that mimics people in real life. Hence the term mimesis, or “literature imitates life”. For example, a character may show strong emotions such as love, anger, or fear of being neglected. Those features that occur within a fictitious character are created to drawn sympathy from the reader, or simply to make the character become more relatable and realistic, in a meaning that they should convey as humanly emotions as possible. Therefore, a character within a novel, even though they are mostly fictitious, shows psychological aspects that are based on a real life person.

Every person has different ways of thinking, feeling, and behaving. These thoughts, feelings, and behaviors made up humans ‘personality’, in which they are often called as traits. Those traits shape one’s view towards the world and the way they relate to others, and it is also applicable to characters inside a literary works. Psychology and

literature are studies that analyze soul or psyche condition from the author especially the persona they created in their novel as a reflection of a real human being. According to Ratna (2004) psychology and literature is an analysis of a literary work using the consideration and relevance of psychology, it is the application of psychology in conducting analysis of literary work that focuses on psychological side of the author, the characters, and the readers.

Though some novel might include real events as the source of its background, the imaginary world or storyline still often appear as the result of the artistic quality of the author, as the main function of a novel is largely focused on entertaining its readers. Anthony Burgess (2018) stated that novel is an invented prose narrative of considerable length and a certain complexity that deals imaginatively with human experiences, usually through a connected sequence of events involving a group of persons in a specific setting. The novel being analyzed in the research begins with a dystopian world created by Victoria, where the hierarchy of society was decided by blood heritage. Silver and Red. The Silvers are the holders of different supernatural powers such as telkies (telekinetic abilities), strongarms (superhuman strength), greenwardens (nature-bending), swifts (extreme speed), nymphs (water-manipulation), burners (fire manipulation), and many other distinctive gifts referred as “ability”. Silvers live in different family clans that are primarily distinguished by their type of ability. In the hierarchy of this world, those who possesses such gifts owns the right to occupy higher positions as they are considered royal families and nobles. Authority and wealth are birth rights that were bestowed upon the lives of Silvers. The Silvers also considered as an embodiment of the Gods themselves. On

the contrary, the Reds is a type of ordinary human who possesses no such powers and being ruled over the power of the Silver, thus making them an object of Silvers' oppressive and unjustified act. They live their life under a constant fear. Different to those of Silver who lives in luxury and occupies powerful position in society, the Reds lives in poverty and constant suffering. Most of them served as slaves for Silvers, who considered themselves as a higher being.

The focus of this research is on the main protagonist in the novel, Mare Barrow. She is the focus of the story, a Red-born, and second youngest children of the Barrow family. In the novel, Mare was told to be a rebellious, slightly impulsive girl who spends most of her live dwelling in the Red's slum, called the Stilts. She makes her life by stealing and pickpocketing from unaware townspeople. In this story, the readers can assume that Mare possesses a considerable amount of grudge towards the Silvers, and furthermore the system in which she and her people, the Reds, are living in. Victoria Aveyard applies third person point of view in her work in order to show the readers how perceptions and views are constructed within the characters in the novel. Therefore, the readers can interpret how Mare Barrow felt spiteful towards the unfairness the Reds has received from their superior counter-part for a very long time. It is also shown that as a result of the distinct inequality between the two classes, Mare developed a hidden desire to be able to change the fate of herself, as well as her people for good. In the novel, Mare finally acquire her chance to do so after unknowingly getting herself involved in an accident while working as a servant in Silvers' palace, therefore dragging her into sequences of events that will later change her life completely. The author uses first person point of view as an instrument to tell

her story, therefore, the reader gained omniscient insights in regards of what Mare Barrow was actually thinking, and her reasoning behind her every action. The novel *Red Queen* by Victoria Aveyard tells the Red's struggle for justice with Mare Barrow as the central viewpoint.

In this story, Mare was portrayed as a seventeen-year-old girl. Along the novel, she was pictured to have her own insecurities and worry that obstructs her from reaching her goal. The writer motives his analysis towards this character based on the relatable portrayal of human anxieties as shown within Mare Barrow's inner thoughts and actions. As the circumstance, those anxieties emerges defense mechanisms as a way to cope with the character's problems. According to Timothy, defense mechanisms are behaviors people use to separate themselves from unpleasant events, actions, or thoughts. These psychological strategies may help people put distance between themselves and threats or unwanted feelings, such as guilt or shame. The notion is pioneered by Sigmund Freud, in which the theory itself has evolved over time and contends that behaviors, like defense mechanisms, are not under a person's conscious control. In fact, most people implement them without realizing the strategy they are using. The writer gains interest of analyzing this issue to understand what kind of defense mechanism that the main character produces in order to cater with her anxieties. This study aims to discover the similarity between a fictional character and real life occurrence, in regards of the anxieties and its defense mechanism that happens in a fictional world, which mirrors human psychology. This study should give further insights how defense mechanism works in reality, by taking example from its fictional counterparts.

1.2 Research Questions

Concerning to the idea presented in the background of research, the writer formulates the research questions as follows:

1. How are anxieties described through Mare Barrow's character in Aveyard's *Red Queen*?
2. How are defense mechanisms described through Mare Barrow's character in Aveyard's *Red Queen*?

1.3 Research Objectives

The purpose of this research is to reveal the anxieties and its defense mechanism of Mare Barrow in Aveyard's *Red Queen* as portrayed through the protagonist's behavior, inner thoughts, and dialogues.

1.4 Uses of Research

Following the objective of the study above, the writer divides the uses of the study in two parts; those are theoretical and practical uses as follow:

1.4.1 Theoretical Use

The writer looks forward for this analysis to become one of references for other researchers that will do an analysis about defense mechanism towards anxieties by applying Freud's theory of psychoanalytic.

1.4.2 Practical Uses

Practically, the writer attempts to make this research able to enrich the reader knowledge especially in understanding about anxieties and its defense mechanism. Also, by reading this research, the writer gives contribution for other researchers who are interested in similar topic to do a comparative study.

1.5 Scope of the Study

In order to answer the formulated problems appropriately, the writer needs to limit the analysis. The research scope is adjusted in an attempt to maintain focal point on the main topic, which is to analyze the main character's anxieties and her defense mechanism.