

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Mother-Fixation is one of the topics that often discussed in psychology of literature. Mother-Fixation in literary analysis was first introduced in the age of Laurence's novel *Sons and Lovers* in 1913. In the psychoanalysis dictionary (1995), Mother-Fixation is an arrest in psychological development characterized by an abnormally persistent and firm emotional attachment to one's mother. The term comes from two words: mother and fixation. According to Rycroft in *A Critical Dictionary of Psychoanalysis* (1995), mother is the person who mothers a child or the person who gave a birth identical with her, also the central person in the child's life through the pre-oedipal phases of development.

Meanwhile, fixation is defined as "the process by which a person becomes or remains ambivalently attached to an object, this object being one which was appropriate to an earlier stage of development." In addition, Rycroft (1995) says that,

"Fixation is therefore evidence of failure to progress satisfactorily through the stages of libidinal development. The concept assumes that the fixated person has a tendency (a) to engage in infantile, outmoded patterns of behavior or to regress to such patterns under stress; (b) to choose compulsively objects on the basis of their resemblance to the one on which he is fixated; and (c) suffers impoverishment of available energy as a result of his investment in the past object. Excessive frustration and satisfaction, excessive love and hate have all been adduced as causes of fixation." (Rycroft, 1995)

Therefore, mother-fixation is a symptom where a child's desire attached or tied to his mother with abnormal characteristics. Moreover, Peter Barry is also defined mother-fixation as the all-male family shown in the play suffers from a classic condition known as mother-fixation, in which there is an overestimated respect for the mother. (Barry, 2017)

In order to know the man suffers mother-fixation or not, it is important to know the symptoms and the characteristics of mother-fixation itself. One of the symptoms can be seen from phallic phase. Phallic phase, according to Rycroft (1995), is stage of infantile libidinal development in which a child is preoccupied with his penis, its functions, and the idea of potency generally. As Charles Rycroft states in *A Critical Dictionary of Psychoanalysis*, the person who are fixated at the phallic phase are mother-fixation or father-fixation. So, the person who stuck in phallic phase they becomes fixated. The term oedipal level comes from Oedipus Complex. As Charles Rycroft states in *A Critical Dictionary of Psychoanalysis*:

Oedipus complex: Group of largely unconscious ideas and feelings centering round the wish to possess the parent of the opposite sex and eliminate that of the same sex. The complex emerges, according to classical theory, during the *oedipal phase* of libidinal and ego development, i.e. between the ages of three and five, though oedipal manifestations may be present earlier – even, during the first year of life. (Rycroft, 1995)

Based on the quotation, it can be inferred that the child wishes to possess the parent of the opposite sex and eliminated the same sex parents, this complex appears during phallic stage between the ages of three and five. If the child does not pass the stage they become fixated, for man it called mother-fixation. There are several

characteristics for those who suffers mother-fixation as Peter Barry states in *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory Fourth Edition*, the person who suffers mother fixation only attracted to women who resemble the mother. However, because of the incest taboo, makes their sexual feelings toward the mother looks difficult or impossible. Therefore, those person seek sexual relationship with women who do not resemble the mother and they degraded their love objects in order to make their love objects does not resemble their mother.

Mother-fixation phenomenon is not only happening in real life but also in literary works. In other words, the characters inside the novel can suffers mother-fixation too. It happens because literary works provides value information such as personality dynamics, mental disorders during particular historical period and the experience from those who suffers such disorders. As Coleman states in *Abnormal Psychology and Modern Life* (1956):

“Of course, literature cannot provide either the theoretical or practical basis for understanding and treating specific cases of abnormal behavior, but it does complement psychology in giving a different kind of understanding of such behavior. Literature yields valuable information, for example, about personality dynamics, about mental disorders prevalent during a particular historical period, and about the inner experiences of those who have undergone such disorders.”

Yet, literature cannot cure or giving specific theory for psychology but it helps psychology study about human abnormal behavior because literature provide value information such as personality dynamics, mental disorders during particular

historical period and the experience from those who suffers such disorders. Therefore, the characters inside literary works can portraits or describes human abnormal behavior.

Oryx and Crake written by Margaret Atwood and it published in 2003 by McClelland and Stewart, Canada. Margaret Atwood was born in Ottawa, Ontario. Margaret Atwood most famous works is *Surfacing* novel published in 1973 and *Oryx and Crake*. In 2009, Margaret Atwood creates another novel in order to fulfill the request from reader entitled *The Year of the Flood*.

In *Oryx and Crake* novel there is major character named Jimmy who later rename himself as Snowman. Jimmy lives with his parents in the corporate camp devoted for future bioengineering. Jimmy's father was a geneticist that worked with pigs used for human organ harvesting called pigoons. Meanwhile, Jimmy's mother (Sharon) was a microbiologist that worked to protect the pigoons against infection and Sharon disagrees with the ethics of her husband's projects. Therefore, Sharon leaves Jimmy and his father suddenly.

In school, he meets his new best friends, Glenn who later rename himself as Crake. Crake's experience quiet same with Jimmy's experience. Crake's father died under mysterious circumstance after deserting his wife and son and it is similar like Jimmy mother's departure. They spending their adolescent times surfing internet for porn, violence and playing video games together.

By the time they graduate, Jimmy goes on to Martha Graham College to become an advertisement writer and Crake at Watson Crick Institute to become bioengineer. In the college, Jimmy meets Amanda Payne. Jimmy attracted to Amanda due her trouble background and her appearance resemble to his mother. After Jimmy graduate, he become a writer AnooYoo, a cosmetics company. Not for long, Jimmy gets a job offer from Crake, he immediately quits AnooYoo and moves to work on Crake's Paradise Project. There, Crake shows his work about the disease that he created in order to sell cure. Furthermore, Jimmy meets Oryx at Paradise. Oryx is Glenn's girlfriend and he fall in love with her too, he believes Oryx is the same person as a little girl he once saw on pornographic site with Glenn. At the end of the novel, Glenn kills Oryx in front of Jimmy, then it triggers Jimmy to kill Crake and leaves him to take charge the Crackers in Paradise. The Crackers, Crake's engineered post human creation that designed for floor models.

The writer chooses this novel because Jimmy and Crake which the characters in this novel is assumed suffers mother-fixation, it can be seen in the text by correlating with the symptoms and characteristics of mother-fixation with the text in the novel. Also, the root of mother-fixation comes from mother and child relationship, in the novel it can be seen there are a several problems between Jimmy and his mother that triggered Jimmy suffers mother-fixation.

In this research, the writer focuses on describing the symptoms and characteristics of mother-fixation that appear in the characters in the *Oryx and Crake* novel by

Margaret Atwood. Also, this research uses the idea from previous researcher to prove mother- fixation does not only appear in real life but also in literary works.

The writer applied psychology of literature approach to analyze *Oryx and Crake* novel. According to Wellek and Warren (1949), psychology of literature can interpret as the psychological study of the writer as a type and individual, the study of creative process, the study of the psychological types and laws present in literature and the effects of literature upon its readers. As Wellek and Warren states:

By "psychology of literature," we may mean the psychological study of the writer, as type and as individual, or the study of the creative process, or the study of the psychological types and laws present within works of literature, or, finally, the effects of literature upon its readers (audience psychology). The fourth we shall consider under "Literature and Society"; the other three shall here be discussed in turn. Probably only the third belongs, in the strictest sense, to literary study. The first two are subdivisions of the psychology of art: though, at times, they may serve as engaging pedagogic approaches to the study of literature, we should disavow any attempt to evaluate literary works in terms of their origins (the genetic fallacy).

The definition of psychology of literature can be varieties. Therefore, not all definition can be used in this research. First and second definition it belongs to the psychology of art study and the rest belongs to literature and society study. Meanwhile, the third definition belongs to literary study. Therefore, this research uses the third definition as approach.

1.2 Research Question:

How are the descriptions of Mother-Fixation as seen in two male characters in Atwood's *Oryx and Crake* novel?

1.3 Objectives of the Study:

To describe the description of Mother-Fixation in two male characters that appear in *Oryx and Crake* novel.

1.4 Uses of Study

The significance of study is divided into:

1.4.1 Theoretical Use

Theoretically, this study can be used by other writers who conduct similar research as one of their references. Also this study would contribute in literature especially in Psychology of Literature approach by using Sigmund Freud's theory about Mother Fixation.

1.4.2 Practical Use

Practically, this research hopefully can give new knowledge to the readers about mother-fixation and its symptoms. Although the research using the example of literary work, but the theory is based on the experts that is dealt with mental disorder.

1.5 Scope of Study

The writer focuses in describing Mother-Fixation that is seen through the male characters which is Jimmy and Crake that appear in *Oryx and Crake* novel.