

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

In everyday life, literature is considered a form of expressing beauty, feelings, imagination, and a medium for pouring out creative ideas. literature can be considered a form of artistic expression that reflects human imagination rather than recording history. According to Wellek & Warren (1949, p.11), the term literature seems most appropriate when limited to the art of literature, namely imaginative literature. The above explains that literature is not only a form of creative expression, nor is it something that only talks about history, but rather literature exists through a world created by the imagination or ideas of a writer. Therefore, literature is important in presenting a person's circumstances, expressed through poetry and fiction.

In addition, literature has a strong appeal for enthusiasts and readers to more deeply explore thoughts and feelings that cannot be measured by reality. Apart from literature being a broad form of work, film is also a dynamic form of literary work. Although film is not a written text like poetry and prose, it has narrative elements and structures similar to literature.

Films still have a strong connection to literary works, and also originate from selected contexts that describe the cultural and social conditions of a particular era. Films offer a wide variety of entertainment; they do not rely solely on narrative to build and develop a storyline. As an art form, films also have many advantages in depicting and explaining various issues and conflicts, emotions, and shaping human characters that audiences can understand and relate to.

As an audio-visual medium, films can be effective in conveying implicit messages through visual representations (Alfathoni & Manesha, 2020, p. 1). In films, characters must play an important role in shaping and developing the storyline and must be able to convey the messages contained in the storyline. Through their dialogues, actions, and decisions, characters in films also reveal behaviors that develop throughout the story.

According to Walgito (2004, p. 10), in the book *Psychology of Literature, Theory and Application* (Wiyatmi, 2011, p. 7), psychology is a science that focuses on human behavior. In literature, a psychological approach can be used to understand the behavior, actions, and decisions of characters in a narrative. One of Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theories divides the human personality into three parts the Id, the Ego, and the Superego, which are interconnected

and interact to determine the attitudes and behavior of each individual. Freud also explains that conflicts between these three personality structures can cause and lead to anxiety.

According to Duane P. Schultz (2016, p.48), anxiety serves as a warning to a person that something is wrong with their personality. This shows that anxiety is an internal signal that alerts a person to problems and imbalances in their personality that need attention.

Many works of literature, especially films, are very suitable for analysis using Freud's theory. In this study, the researcher uses a film titled *Don't Worry Darling* (2022), directed by American actress and director Olivia Wilde. This film was released on September 23, 2022, in Indonesia. It was first screened in theaters on October 12, 2022. To date, *Don't Worry Darling* can be enjoyed and watched via streaming on HBO Max, HBO Go, and other free services.

The film *Don't Worry Darling* tells the story of a woman named Alice. At the beginning of the story, Alice is a very happy wife living in a community called Victory. However, as time goes by, Alice often experiences nightmares, anxiety, strangeness, and oddities throughout her day. Alice also often questions the reality of her life and feels that something is wrong with what she sees. This condition can be analyzed through the Id, Ego, and Superego, which conflict

with each other in determining Alice's every action and behavior. The conflict within Alice, caused by her personality structure, causes her anxiety.

Based on previous research, analyses using Sigmund Freud's theory have been widely applied and presented in the form of literary studies and various films and their focus. Several studies also analyze the main characters through personality structures, namely the Id, Ego, and Superego, to understand the psychological conflicts that arise and are experienced by these characters. Other studies have also analyzed psychological and semiotic perspectives, such as presenting ideologies, visual signs, and certain social aspects. Therefore, this study uses the film *Don't Worry Darling* as its object with a different approach.

Based on the above explanation and description, this study aims to reveal and explore how Freud's personality structures, namely the Id, Ego, and Superego, are represented in the character of Alice in the film *Don't Worry Darling* (2022). On the other hand, this study also focuses on how conflicts arise between these three personality structures, causing anxiety. Therefore, this study is expected to assist and contribute to literary studies, particularly in the application of Sigmund Freud's theory to the analysis of characters in films.

1.2 Limitation of the Problem

This study is limited to focusing on the Id, Ego, and Superego within the character of Alice in the film *Don't Worry Darling* (2022). In addition, this study also limits its discussion to how the Id, Ego, and Superego influence the anxiety experienced by Alice. This study also does not discuss other characters in the film, cinematography, ideology, or social aspects contained in the film. The analysis is based on Freud's theory and only uses data in the form of dialogue, actions, and expressions related to Alice.

1.3 Research Questions

Based on what is explained above, the researcher formulated two problems as follows:

1. How are the Id, Ego, Superego portrayed in Alice's character in the film *Don't Worry Darling* (2022)
2. How does the conflict between Id, Ego and Superego influence the anxiety experienced by Alice in the film *Don't Worry Darling* (2022)

1.4 Objective of the Research

Based on the research questions above, the objectives of the research were supposed to be:

1. To reveal the portrayal of Id, Ego, Superego in Alice's character in the film *Don't Worry Darling* (2022).
2. To uncover how the Id, Ego, Superego influences the anxiety experienced by Alice in the film *Don't Worry Darling* (2022).

