

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter comprises six main parts, namely, the background of the study, problem statements, objectives of the study, the originality and significances of the study, scope and limitation of the study, and operational definitions of key terms.

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

In our everyday life, people have problems with other people, even with themselves. Whether it is a problem because of different point of view, of feeling of not getting justice, of feeling hurt, of feeling jealous or envy of the differences felt by other people, and so on. Each existing problem and different self-acceptance will give different output to each person. Some people see a problem as a process that matures and makes them strong, makes them rise, and the spirit of solving and overcoming existing problems. Some of the rest felt the opposite. Sometimes with existing problems, it makes a person fall, feels uncomfortable, supposes there is no way out, and feels anxiety. Consequently, the pressure makes someone feel guilty because she/he expects to do something and does not want to be anxious.

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary (2022), the definition of guilt is the feeling of being worthy of blame, especially for the unimaginable to the imagined offense. Sigmund Freud believed that there are two primary sources of guilt. The first one was fear of authority, and the second one was fear of loss of

parental love, which eventually become one's conscience (Freud, 2001, cited in Lamia, 2022). One can immediately be feeling full of fear about both sources when they realize they have made a mistake. It could be that committing a crime or creating a situation that harms others, and the perpetrator can be conscious. All human are aware of the guilt they have when they have done something wrong, something they can not be proud of when they do something that violates the rules. Humans often wonder when make mistakes, if and maybe someone will find out, who will then punish and belittle us. Excessive thinking of it makes human feel even more guilty, feel bad, feel unacceptable or accepted, and feel extreme anger. Situations like this are normal, but most people are taught from a young age that angry feelings and thoughts are immoral and sinful. On the contrary, or even worst, the perpetrator could also be unconscious that they have not made any mistake, so they do not feel guilty at all and feels fine. This thing also proven in a recent journal article showed a decrease in an empathic concern, or it could be means as a human's sympathetic response to the bad luck or misfortune of others in *Personality and Social Psychology Review* (Konrath, 2010, cited in Lamia, 2011).

In this research, the writer will analyze the *1922* movie by using the psychoanalysis approach of literary criticism. The writer will try to analyze the guilt sense of the main character in the film, Wilfred James, through psychoanalysis criticism. The reason why the researcher wants to analyze this study since she wants to know how guilt feelings could affect someone's psychological state because of the imagined consequences of what they have done. In the *1922* movie, Wilfred James, the male main character, played by

Thomas Jane, is a farmer in his wife's inheritance. He has a wife called Arlette James and has one and an only lovely son named Henry Hank James. The 1922 movie tells us about differences of opinion regarding the purpose of life between husband and wife. Until tragic things happen when one party feels there is no way out for endless differences of view, the same difference of opinion maintains their respective desires, and no one wants to budge. Midway through the movie, Wilfred James kills his wife because he feels that it is the only way out, he even invites his son to get involved. This film adaptation of Stephen King contains a combination of suspense, psychological drama, and horror. At the end of the rest of the story, a lot of bad things happen, and Wilfred is haunted by Arlette and also guilt. Hence, the writer wants to know what is the concept of guilt manifestation based on this movie and complete it by using the psychoanalysis approach. By having this study, the researcher believes it would give the readers a way to understand psychoanalytic and guilt activity in literature, especially in the form of a movie with a drama, crime, and guilt theme.

## **1.2 Problem Statements**

There are three problems discussed in this study:

1. What is the fundamental motive of Wilfred James that motivates him to murder his wife?
2. What are the manifestations of guilt that Wilfred James experiences?
3. What is guilt reason of Wilfred James seen from the psychoanalytical perspective?

### **1.3 Objectives of The Study**

In response to the three problem statements above, there are respectively three objectives to be achieved through this study:

1. To identify the fundamental motive of Wilfred James that motivates him to murder his wife.
2. To identify what the manifestations of guilt Wilfred James had experienced.
3. To identify Wilfred James' feeling of guilt seen from the psychoanalytical perspective.

### **1.4 Originality and Significances**

There are various significances of this study for the researcher. First of all, this thesis is authentically written by the researcher. Besides, this study is intended to assess, apply, and certify the researcher's knowledge about all the theories given in the classroom. The researcher stated that this paper is significant to the researcher as it is one of the requirements to graduate from her study at the English Letters Study Program of Language and Arts Faculty in Universitas Ma Chung. This study would contribute to the benefits of the reader considering the theory of psychoanalysis criticism, especially from a guilt sense. Realistically, this paper helps the researcher apply and develop her knowledge about psychoanalysis criticism in literature dealing with a movie. The researcher hopes this study can be helpful for the readers to enhance their knowledge. This paper can be used as a

reference and present new insights for the other English Letters students who have the same interest in psychoanalysis criticism.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation of The Study**

This paper focused on the analysis of psychoanalysis criticism on the male main character, Wilfred James' guilt in the *1922* movie. Which the researcher count heavily on Wilfred James's point of view as in the movie, on his dialogues and monologues. As states earlier, psychoanalysis criticism of literature is the belief that all people take possession of unconscious thoughts, feelings, desires, and memories. Psychoanalytic criticism is a theory by Sigmund Freud as a functional study of human psychological behavior. The researcher uses Freudian theory analysis of id, ego, superego, and the relation to guilt, and also a theory about manifestation of guilt that seen in the movie.

### **1.6 Operational Definition of Key Terms**

In order to avoid ambiguity of researcher's perception as well as to comprehend some terms used in this study, this following part clarifies some definition of key terms, namely:

**Freudian Psychoanalysis:** Sigmund Freud is the founder of the theory of psychoanalysis that explains human behavior and a method for treating mental illness. There is some core of psychoanalysis: the belief that all people possess

unconscious thoughts, desires, memories, and feelings (Cherry, 2020). The most famous and impactful idea or theory by Freud is about the model of human mind, that divides human's mind into three layer: conscious, preconscious, and unconscious (Ackerman, 2021).

**Id, Ego, and Superego:** Sigmund Freud developed the three layers of the human mind to be a theory comprising id, ego, and superego. Freud called those of id, ego, and superego as the psychic apparatus, and is the conceptualizations of critical mental functions as three essential parts of the human personality (McLeod, 2018). The id is a condition in which a person feels a biological urge or drive from within himself to satisfy himself, which happens unconsciously. In comparison, the superego is the condition of humans living with existing norms and rules. As social beings, it is a must that humans need to pay attention to the traditions and beliefs that exist to be accepted socially. The last is the ego, which is part of the human personality that must balance the id's desires that arise with the existing reality (Cherry, 2020).

**Guilt:** According to Dictionary (2022), the meaning of guilt is a feeling of responsibility or regrets for some offense, crime, violation, and wrong, whether accurate or imagined, especially against moral, norms, or penal law.

**Uncanny:** A strange or mysterious in an unsettling way, not like the normal situation that exists, it is like there are superpowers and superhuman power (Merriam-Webster, 2022).

**Unconscious:** The subconscious mind contains all beyond human consciousness, such as childhood memories, hidden impulses, and secret desires. Many humans

bury bad things in the subconscious because they cause pain or conflict. While every memory, impulse, and thought that arises outside of human consciousness still influences thinking and behavior, which can affect behavior positively or negatively and the worst can cause psychological distress (Cherry, 2020).

**Unconscious Sense of Guilt:** Is an ego circumstance resulting from the conflict between the aims of the superego and those of the ego. This unconscious guilt is one of the most powerful factors in the contentment of passive libidinal wishes (Grinbearg, 2019).