ANXIETY AND DEFENSE MECHANISM PORTRAYED BY MORT RAINNEY IN SECRET WINDOW FILM
(A Psychoanalytical Study)

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Abstract: This study raises one film, namely Secret Window which contains the issue of psychological problems in the main character. These problems lead to anxiety and defense mechanisms shown in several scenes of the film. The purpose of this study is to find out how the Secret Window film shows Morton Rainey's anxiety and defense mechanism as the main character. Besides, this study analyse the form of anxiety and defense mechanism experienced by Morton. This research uses descriptive analysis method and psychoanalytic theory. Analysis shows that the anxiety experienced by Mort are moral and reality anxiety. Then Morton Rainey's defense mechanism consists of repression, rationalization, projection, displacement, and denial. The conclusion of this study is that Morton Rainey's character experiences psychological symptoms in the form of anxiety and defense mechanisms which are described in his expressions and actions in the film Secret Window.

Keywords: psychoanalysis, anxiety, defense mechanism, main character, film
A. Introduction

Film is one of the most popular forms of literature, especially in this modern era. According to Klarer (in Narudin, 2017) films are classified as the type of literary work because all kinds of film presentation modes are in accordance with the features of literary texts and can also be explained in terms of textual1. Film can convey the story and messages of work simply. It is not surprising that most of us are familiar with films based on written works that we may not have known before. According to Wibowo (in Rizal, 2014) film is a media for convey various messages to the general public through the media stories, and can also be interpreted as a media of artistic expression for artists and filmmakers to express ideas and ideas the story he has2. From this understanding of film, it can be concluded that film is a work of art in the form of moving images or communication media that can be seen and displayed and has a function to convey a message to the general public. This study analyses Secret Window which is a novella by Stephen King, a famous writer from the United States, and finally adapted into a film in 2004.

Secret Window directed by David Koepp, it tells the story of a famous author named Morton 'Mort' Rainey. Unfortunately, he experienced a sad incident where he witnessed his wife, Amy, has been cheating on his friend, Ted. After the incident, Mort went to his old cabin and six months later he developed symptoms of 'writer's block' and also a mental illness called Schizophrenia. These symptoms implicitly recognized as psychological problem. And so began the gripping terrors, where acts of violence to murder were displayed. All of this happened due to the psychological trauma experienced by the main character. The researchers will use psychoanalytic theory to understand the main character, Mort Rainey, who suffers from the mental illness Schizophrenia and use descriptive analysis for telling Mort Rainey’s symptoms in the film.

Psychoanalysis in literature has four possible meanings. The first is the study of the psychology of the author as a type or as a person. The second is the study of the creative process. The third is the study of types and psychological laws applied to literary works. The fourth is the study of the impact of literature on the reader. However, what is used in psychoanalysis is the third because it is closely related in the field of literature3. Psychoanalysis can be used to assess literary works because psychology can explain the creative process.

Implicitly, filmmakers want to describe an understanding or just an issue contained in the film. In this case, the researchers raise the issue of psychoanalysis contained in a film. To facilitate the analysis process, the researchers need a theory as a basis for thinking, namely the psychoanalytic theory pioneered by Sigmund Freud. Current theory not only focuses on conflict, bodily urges, unconscious fantasy, and defense but also shows developmental issues, reality pressures, and interpersonal interactions as important4 (Lettieri, 2005). All psychoanalytic approaches to the study of personality are derived from the work of Sigmund Freud5 (Abbott, 2001). The concept of Freud's most famous theory of psychoanalysis is that the subconscious controls most behavior. Psychoanalytic theory

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remains hugely influential to our understanding of the mind and human behaviour (Frosh, 2012). In addition, he also gave a statement at the beginning that human behavior is based on sexual desire which was initially felt by humans since childhood from their mothers.

Freud divided the mind into consciousness, preconsciousness and unconsciousness. Of the three aspects of consciousness, unconsciousness is the most dominant and most important in determining human behavior. In the unconscious stored childhood memories, great psychic energy and instinct. Preconsciousness acts as a bridge between the conscious and the unconscious, containing memories or ideas that can be accessed at any time. Consciousness is only a small part of the mind, but the only part that has direct contact with reality. Freud developed the concept of the structure of the mind by developing the mind apparatus, which is known as Freud's personality structure and is the most important construct, namely the id, ego and super ego. The id is the most basic structure of personality, is entirely unconscious and works according to the pleasure principle, the goal of which is immediate gratification. The ego develops from the id, the personality structure that controls consciousness and makes decisions about human behavior. Superego, develops from the ego when humans understand the value of good and bad and morals. The superego reflects social values and awakens the individual to moral demands. When there is a violation of values, the superego punishes the ego by causing guilt. The ego always faces a tension between the demands of the id and the superego. If these demands are not managed properly, the ego is threatened and anxiety arises. In order to save themselves from threats, the ego performs a defensive reaction / self-defense. This is known as a defense mechanism which can be of various types. This flow assumes that human behavior tends to be influenced by unconsciousness, the past, and biological impulses, so this school holds the view that human nature is bad, cruel, resulting in physical pleasure. The concept about id, ego and super ego lead us to schizophrenia as one of mental illnesses.

Based on Freudian psychoanalysis there are three kinds of anxiety. The first, reality anxiety. In reality anxiety comes from the presence of fear against the dangers that threaten the real world, for example fear of fire, tornado, earthquake. This anxiety leads us to behave how to deal with danger. Not infrequently scared rooted in this reality to the extreme. One can be very afraid to go out home for fear of an accident to him. The second, neurotic anxiety. This anxiety has a basis in childhood, in a conflict between instinctual gratification and reality. Neurotic anxiety arises from the fear of being punished for showing behavior Id-dominated impulsivity. The necessary thing to pay attention is fear occurs not because afraid of that instinct but is fear of what will happen if the instinct is satisfied. The conflict that occurs is between the Id and the ego as we know it has a basis in reality. The third is
moral anxiety, this anxiety is the result of the conflict between the Id and superego. It's basically a fear of an individual's own conscience. When individuals are motivated to express instinctual impulses contrary to the moral values referred to as the individual's superego then they will feel ashamed or guilty.

Before we go to the analysis, here is the theory of defense mechanism we used. Defense mechanisms are a way for the ego to defend itself against the anxiety that may threaten the person by twisting reality (Schultz & Schultz, 2017)\(^7\). Although defense mechanisms seem normal to be used by a lot of people; they may cause compulsive, repetitive, and neurotic behavior in its user (Feist & Feist, 2008)\(^8\). The theory of defense mechanism was created by Sigmund Freud then succeeded by his daughter, Anna Freud. She describes that the defense mechanism has ten forms, such as repression, denial, displacement, projection, rationalization, reaction-formation, sublimation, fixation, regression, and introjection (Feist & Feist, 2008; Schultz & Schultz, 2017). Further explanation will be explained below.

a. Repression
The most common defense mechanism. Repression works when the ego is attacked by the id. Then, the ego will defend itself with repression of id impulses. In some cases, it will last long by eternity. For example, a younger brother hides his rage toward his grandfather because it will spark anxiety.

b. Denial
Denial is a defense mechanism that is connected to repression and involves denying the event of the traumatic incident. For instance, a man who mourns their partner's death denies her disappearance. Instead, he believes that he still sees his partner beside him.

c. Displacement
Displacement means displacing something. It means people who perform this defense mechanism change their source of anger to something else. This is to avoid their anxiety. For example, a student is assaulted by his classmate but he doesn't fight back against their gadfly by releasing it toward his partner or his brother.

d. Projection
This type of defense mechanism is almost like displacement. However, projection tends to make the suspect becomes the object of their anxiety release. For instance, a teacher sees who hates him is his student, not him who hates his student.

e. Rationalization
Rationalization is a defense mechanism that similar to denial. However, rationalization makes it more reliable, rational, and surely acceptable. For example, a student receives a bad score from his lecturer and he may rationalize it by saying that his job is indeed not good enough to impress his lecturer.

f. Reaction-Formation
This defense mechanism leads a person to perform the opposite action. For example, the grandchildren hate their grandfather due to his rude and bad behavior. However, instead of showing their hatred, they express their good act in front of them but they do it not because of their generosity, they do it because of the demands of society's morals.

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g. Sublimation

Sublimation is an alter towards displacement. Whereas displacement involves finding a substitute object to satisfy id impulses, sublimation involves altering the id impulses themselves. For example, a person’s desire can be changed into academic or non-academic things.

h. Fixation

Fixation is a universal type of defense mechanism. It happens when someone takes another thing to do, but they are excessively worried. Hence, they remain in one place and don’t go ahead. It is usually mentioned as a "primitive stage of development".

i. Regression

While fixation chooses to avoid progress, regression tends to go backward. They return to the earlier era that was full of happiness and no anxiety. In this case, they come back into the stages of childhood. For instance, when a person becomes more "childish and dependent".

j. Introjection

In introjection, a person undercover themselves into another person. They take the profitable quality of another. For example, someone has a lifestyle like a celebrity. It makes them feel better and hides their anxiety.

The researchers found two previous studies that related to this study. First, Analisis Tokoh berdasarkan Teori Psikoanalisis Sigmund Freud dalam Naskah Drama Badai Sepanjang Malam Karya Arifin Max Arijin serta Implikasinya bagi Pembelajaran Sastra by Achmad Dayari. We have similarities in using psychoanalysis, but the difference is, he focused on Id, Ego and Super Ego only. Then the second previous study is Kajian Psikoanalisis Tokoh dalam Teks Film À La Folie... Pas Du Tout Karya Laetitia Colombani by Friska Bilinani Soraya. We also have similarity in using psychoanalysis, but the difference is, she found issues about erotomania and psychopathy mental disorders.

The researchers formulate two problems in this study. First, how the forms of anxiety suffered by Mort Rainey are, then the second is how the forms of defense mechanism experienced by Mort Rainey are. These problems lead us to reach the purposes of this study, they are (1) how the forms of anxiety suffered by Mort Rainey are, (2) how the forms of defense mechanism experienced by Mort Rainey are.

This study is relatable in this modern era, in which mental health becoming an important issue. It can help researchers who looking for references on the same topic. In addition, this study can provide new insights to readers in terms of psychoanalytic theory built in this film. Also, it can be a benefit for understanding the factors of Schizophrenia.

B. Method

This study is categorized as a literature study because the object of our research is a film. This study uses descriptive analysis because we will apply the psychoanalytic theory to Morton ‘Mort’ Rainey. This design is suitable for the study because we will describe how Mort deals with schizophrenia, which is showing the psychoanalytic issues. The data source is Secret Window film, which is an adaptation from a novella of Stephen King, a famous writer from the United States. This film was adapted into a film in 2004, directed by David Koepp. The duration of the film is 1 hour 36 minutes.

The researchers collect the data as follows, watching the Secret Window film and then, reading the script film to find the data to proceed with psychoanalytic theory. Furthermore, researchers need to classify data that related with the purposes of the study. Last, by evaluating the data and writing the results of the study. According to Rahardjo (2020), data analysis is an activity of giving purpose or
interpreting the data by the process of arranging, sorting, grouping, marking for specific items, and categorizing the data\textsuperscript{9}. It purposes to help us on finding the answer to a certain topic or problem.

C. Findings and Discussion

The focus is Mort Rainey as the main character who suffers from a psychological disorder. Mort always feels uneasy and haunted by the arrival of John Shooter who is considered as a serious threat. The authors suspect, Mort Rainey suffers from schizophrenia disorder so that he does everything without realizing it. So the following is a sequence of analysis of defense mechanism done by Morton Rainey as the main character.

1. Synopsis

Morton Rainey or Mort is a famous author. One of his works is *Secret Window*, this story brings problem in his life. Someone named John Shooter comes to Mort, demands Mort to admit that he has stolen John’s story. This is where the terror begins. Mort feels haunted by John everyday because John threaten him to prove that he did not steal John’s story before. Then strange things happen in Mort’s life which brings him to anxiety condition. First, his dog suddenly dead in front of his house. Next, his house in town is burnt suddenly. After that, the body guard and Mort’s neighbor also dead inside the car. One by one each problem and murder keep happening till the end of this film, Mort’s ex wife, Amy, and her boyfriend also dead. All of this plot order lead us into a terror by John Shooter, but unfortunately, in the end of the film, it is stated that John Shooter did not exist at all from the very beginning. John is a character built by Mort hiself. So John is only exists by illusion. Mort suffer from several symptoms of anxiety. This feeling comes from some factors, they are smoking and alcohol addiction, losing baby, and divorcement process. Mort feels depressed and starts to have delucion or hallucination. He cannot differenciate between the real and unreal ones. Till the end, Mort totally mastered by John Shooter who haunts him in the whole time. Mort suffered from personality split because he lost his own self.

2. The forms of anxiety suffered by Morton Rainey
   a. Moral Anxiety

   00.05.40
   (Koepp, David. 2004. Secret Window. 00.05.40)\textsuperscript{10}

   Mort is anxious because he doesn't like being accused of plagiarism, based from the expression on his face that implied as if he was feeling anxious. Plagiarism can be defined\textsuperscript{11} as the act of copy paste someone else's work. According to Sastroasmoro, plagiarism can be classified based on several types, including plagiarism based on stolen aspects (in the form of idea plagiarism; content plagiarism; word, sentence, and paragraph plagiarism;


and total plagiarism). The second is plagiarism based on intentional or unintentional. Third, plagiarism is based on the proportion of words, sentences, and paragraphs where there is light plagiarism with a plagiarism percentage of less than 30%, moderate plagiarism with a plagiarism percentage of 30 to 70%, and severe or total plagiarism with a plagiarism percentage above 70%.

00.12.45
(Koepp, David. 2004. Secret Window. 00.12.45)
At 00.12.45, when Mort read John Shooter’s “Snowing Season” he felt anxious because it was almost exactly the same as his writing entitled Secret Window. Mort himself felt that Secret Window was his own original work, not copying other people’s work. Mort was confused and tried to confirm by rereading John Shooter's work with his own. And to prove that Mort is not plagiarizing is to find out who wrote the first draft of the narrative of the story. It is known that in Secret Window, Mort Rainey wrote 2 years earlier than John Shooter.

b. Reality Anxiety

00.24.41
(Koepp, David. 2004. Secret Window. 00.24.41)
Another form of anxiety, Mort experiences is a threat. Mort feels himself in danger and feels stalked by John Shooter. The threat is written in the paper “You Have 3 days I am Not Joking No Police”. It is this external threat that makes Mort feel always being haunted by John Shooter.
Mort's anxiety was evident in the expression on his face that looked frightened and confused. Mort senses that John Shooter has been stalking him and those closest to him. Mort felt that John Shooter had killed the two. Because Mort was too worried about the condition of his friends who were killed and a lot of blood stains made Mort felt nauseous and fainted. Mort fainted for 3 hours and woke up due to the presence of John Shooter, because of anxiety and fear, Mort tried to run away. Mort worries because he is also afraid to be killed by John Shooter.

3. Defense Mechanism experienced by Morton Rainey

1. Repression

Repression is the most common form of defense mechanism since every type of defense mechanism had repression. Repression happens when the Id threatens the ego and the ego defends itself and in several cases, the act of repression can last for a period. In
this scene, Mort appears to talk to himself to prevent Mort from confronting his wife's affair with Ted.

“Mort”:
Turn around. Turn around.
Turn the car around and get the hell out of here.
Right now.
Don't go back, Do not go back there.
(Koepp, David. 2004. Secret Window. 00:22-00:50)

Here, Mort's subconscious tells him to leave the motel immediately since Mort already knows that his wife, Amy having an affair with another man. However, he fights his subconscious by rushing to the motel room and finding them both. In this opening scene, Mort’s face shows an expression of anxious, confused, and little bit of anger.

2. Rationalization

Although the form of rationalization is similar to denial which is the person doesn't want to remember the traumatic event, this type chooses to defend the person throughout the anxiety by justification. Plus, the advantage of this type is likely approvable due to its rationality of it. Here, Mort came to his old house to pick up his stuff, likely the magazine.

“Mort”:
This is not my beautiful house.
This is not my beautiful wife.
Anymore.
(Koepp, David. 2004. Secret Window. 30:37-31:00)

However, he suddenly cancels it when he sees Amy and Ted in front of the house. Once again, Mort's subconscious rise up and tells Mort to stop his move and tells him to embrace the reality that what he sees right before his eyes is no longer his house and Amy is no longer his wife since the affair accident. As he also try to rationalize himself that the house and Amy is no longer belongs to him anymore, Mort express an angry face.
3. Projection

The projection is a type of defense mechanism that almost looks like displacement. What makes this different is projection tends to make the suspect becomes the object of their anxiety release. Near the resolution or the end of the film, the scene shows us Mort meeting Ted at the gas station and he blames everything on Ted.

Mort:
What are you doing here?
Ted:
Matter of fact, I was just on my way over to your place.
Mort:
Where’s your buddy?
Ted:
Came alone.
Mort:
Sure you did.
Mort:
I know what you’re up to.
Ted:
Look, Mort... A lot of what’s going on right now is my fault. Most of it, in fact.
Mort:
What do you want?
Ted:
I want you out of our life. Gotta sign your papers, Mort.
Mort:
My divorce papers? Tell her to send them to my lawyer.
Ted:
She did. He said that you won’t return his calls for weeks.
Mort:
That’s what is this all about? Getting me to sign this settlement?
Ted:
Just calm down.
Mort:
Money?

Ted:
It's not about money. This is about getting this thing done.

Ted:
Because I'm afraid if we don't, who knows where it might go and I think you know what I mean.

Mort:
Well, Teddy, I think I do, but here's the problem: I don't respond well to intimidation. Makes me feel icky Do you know?

Ted:
You know, I'm attempting to have a normal conversation here.

Mort:
I buried my dog, mister.
This whole thing is out of your control now. You know it, I know it.

You started this shit, I'm gonna finish it. Now, do me a favor, go back and tell that to your filthy little friend.

Ted:
God!

Mort:
Bummer, Ted.

(Koepp, David. 2004. Secret Window. 59:56-01:00:02)

Here, Mort meets Ted and he harshly blames Ted for all of the incidents. Ted, who doesn't know anything except he is the reason why Amy and Mort separated, only wants the divorce papers getting signed by Mort. On the other side, Mort, accused him because he thinks Ted hires John Shooter to assault Mort, either physically or mentally. Mort even says that his dog was killed because of Shooter's act. The two end up badly and almost had a fight, only being stopped when Ted punch his own car's door. In the end, Mort leaves Ted.

4. Displacement

Displacement means displacing something. People who perform this type of defense mechanism, they performing it by unleashing their source of anger on something else or even someone else. In this scene, it shows that Mort, unconsciously, kills his friends in the car. This is because he chooses to release his dark side by removing someone that he may consider a threat.
5. Denial

As its name, denial means a type of defense mechanism that is connected to repression and involves denying the event the traumatic incident. Near the end of the film, Mort meets "Mort" where "Mort" tries to remind Mort of what is going on. "Mort" try to make Mort realize that it was himself all along who make the whole incident. "Mort" also tells that John Shooter did not exist, it was part of his created illusion. However, Mort denies that he does everything that "Mort" said, he still insists that John Shooter is real.

"Mort":
Why'd you put it on?
Mort: I don't know.
"Mort":
Maybe be wanted you to.
Mort: Why would be want me to put his hat on?
"Mort":
Maybe be wants you to...
Mort:
Maybe be wants me to what?
"Mort":
To get confused.
Mort: Oh, I'm already confused, pilgrim. Plenty confused. So don't talk to me about confusion.
"Mort":
Wait a minute. Back up just a sec. What about that?
Mort:
What about what?
"Mort":
Well, "pilgrim," "Shooter's Bay," and the half a dozen other details you've chosen to ignore.
Mort:
You know what? You're nuts. I don't need to listen to this shit from you.
“Mort”:
Are all these things coincidences?
Mort:
I’m wearing his bruises, aren’t I? Aren’t I?!
“Mort”:
Are you?
Mort:
Well...
This doesn’t make any sense.
“Mort”:
Would you like to hear something that does make sense? Call the police.
Call Dave Newsome, tell him to come here this second and lock you up...before you can do any more damage.
Mort:
I’m gonna get a knife and cut you out of me.
“Mort”:
Before you kill anyone else.
Mort:
I didn’t kill anybody.
“Mort”:
You had a gun.
Mort:
Wasn’t loaded.
“Mort”:
Really?
Mort:
No
“Mort”:
You almost killed them. You wanted to.
Mort:
The gun was not loaded!
“Mort”:
You still want to.
Mort:
Shut up!
“Mort”:
Listen to me, because this is how it happens. This is how it happens to people.
Mort:
Shut up!
"Mort":
There is no John Shooter. There never has been. You invented him.
Listen to me, not to him, before it's too late.
Mort:
Leave me alone!
"Mort":
You are alone.
You're not handling this.
What you're doing is wrong.
You have no idea what you're doing.
You've been eating potato chips this way for years. For years.
Sister found out about the broken window.
The school had to be withdrawn from the competition.
Sister found out about the broken windows.
Then she got up from the table.
We didn't talk for the rest of the night.
Todd Downey thought a woman who'd steal your love...
What does Todd have to do with it? Everything.
I'm starting to believe Todd was right.
Everything that you're doing is wrong.
Mort:
What is happening to me?
(Koepp, David. 2004. Secret Window. 01:15:54-01:18:50)

D. Conclusion

Based on the analysis above, we can conclude these following points. First, Morton Rainey suffered moral anxiety and reality anxiety. Second, Morton Rainey experienced several kinds of defense mechanism, they are repression, rationalization, projection, displacement, and denial. Both of these anxiety and defense mechanism are shown in the dialogue and action of the main character.