THE IMPACT OF CHILDHOOD MEMORY TO MRS. DE WINTER’S DEFENSE MECHANISM IN DAPHNE DU MAURIER’S *REBECCA*

AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of *Sarjana Sastra* in English Letters

By

SELVY CITRA JAYA SAPUTRI

Student Number: 124214121

ENGLISH LETTERS STUDY PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LETTERS
FACULTY OF LETTERS
SANATA DHARMA UNIVERSITY
YOGYAKARTA
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Defended before the Board of Examiners on November 28, 2016 and Declared Acceptable

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iv
STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

I certify that this undergraduate thesis contains no material which has been previously submitted for the award of any other degree at any university, and that, to the best of my knowledge, this undergraduate thesis contains no material previously written by any other person except where due reference is made in the text of the undergraduate thesis.

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Yang menyatakan,

Selvy Citra Jaya Saputri
If something is destined for you,

never

in a million years it will be for somebody else.

[Al Hadits]
For those who stay dedicated,

who go whole heartedly,

who stay kind,

and who refuse to give up on themselves.
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Moreover, I dedicate this thesis to my parents. I thank for every support they give and the patience they have. I would not be here without their prayers and blessings. I thank my parents for giving me the greatest gift in my life by far; my little brother, who never lets me forget to follow my passion.

Last but not least, to my friends whom I meet along the journey, I learn that family is not just bound by blood; respect and joy in each other’s life would do too.

Selvy Citra Jaya Saputri
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ABSTRACT


Literary works are one form of a reflection of reality. Hence, many literary works are written based on real life, even sometimes, from the author’s life itself. Psychoanalysis is the field of knowledge that is chosen to analyze this literary works. Using the field, this study attempts to see the impact of childhood memory to defense mechanism. The result of this study can be useful not only for a future reference but also for daily life in analyzing the people around.

Two problems formulation are discussed in this study. The first one is how Mrs. De Winter’s characterization reveals her core issues. The second one is what Mrs. De Winter’s childhood memory is and how they affect her defense mechanism.

This study uses psychoanalytic criticism and is conducted by library research with the novel Rebecca as the primary source. A method of close reading is performed to earn the details of Mrs. De Winter’s characterization. Then, some steps of analysis are taken to identify the core issues, self-defense, and the relation between childhood memories and the defense mechanism. The method also helps elaborate her childhood memory, for the novel only provides brief description about Mrs. De Winter’s family.

Using Lois Tyson’s basic concept that derives from Freud’s psychoanalytic theory, it is found that out of the five core issues Tyson proposed, Mrs. De Winter shows the indication of having three of the core issues which are low self-esteem, insecure, and fear of abandonment. These core issues are found after looking at Mrs. De Winter’s characterization which is analyzed using Stanton’s theory. In further analysis, it is concluded that Mrs. De Winter uses denial and avoidance as her self defense. Her childhood memory is broken down into two memories; memory of a loving family and memory of losing her family. The first memory makes Mrs. De Winter have a high expectation on her love-life and it leads her to the first self-defense which is denial; denying that Rebecca does not affect her marriage life. The second memory sparks one of her core issues which is fear of abandonment. This issue makes her try to avoid losing her husband and then covers his crime. This shows that Mrs. De Winter uses avoidance to defend herself from feeling the pain of losing her family. From the analysis, it is concluded that childhood memory takes effect on both of her core issues and defense mechanism.
ABSTRAK


Karya sastra adalah salah satu bentuk refleksi dari kehidupan sehari-hari. Oleh karena itu, banyak karya sastra yang dibuat berdasarkan kehidupan nyata, bahkan dari penulis karya itu sendiri. Banyak cabang ilmu yang dapat diaplikasikan untuk menganalisa karya sastra termasuk psikoanalisis. Dengan menggunakan psikoanalisis, studi ini mencoba untuk melihat pengaruh memori kanak-kanak dalam sistem pertahanan diri seseorang.


CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

There are many fields of knowledge that a person can use in analyzing literary works. Different fields can be chosen and as a result, they will have different perspectives based on the chosen field. One of the knowledge fields that can be used in analyzing literary works is psychoanalysis. Psychoanalysis is the study of human behavior, focusing more about mental problems and how to cure them.

In analyzing literary works, the use of psychoanalytical criticism can be divided into four kinds based on the focus; the author, the content, its formal construction, or the reader (Eagleton, 1983: 155). This study focuses on the content which is discussing the unconscious motivations of characters. This kind of approach put the characters as if they were human being with motives behind their actions so that researchers are able to treat them as patients with psychological problems (Eagleton, 1983: 155).

Many literary works are written based on reality or based on the life of the author themselves. The readers are usually easier to be affected when the literary works are based on real event, for they can relate themselves to the author and the characters. It also enhanced readers’ interest more when they know the work is based on real events even if they are peculiar events.
Rebecca is a classic gothic novel and also one of the best-known books from Daphne du Maurier. The novel tells about the new Mrs. de Winter, a young woman who is newly married to Maxim de Winter, a very successful man and also the owner of Manderley. At first, a love story like this will most likely reminds readers to the well-known fairytale, Cinderella, but Rebecca was nothing like it.

The story of Rebecca was inspired by Maurier’s personal life in which she was jealous of her husband’s first fiancée, Jan Ricardo. Ricardo sent Maurier’s husband some letters with her signature and her great ‘R’ letter. Although they were fairly harmless letters, Maurier was still haunted by the thought of her husband still having some affection for Ricardo (www.thetelegraph.co.uk/culture/books).

In the novel, there is an overly obsessed maid named Mrs. Danvers. Her obsession caused some troubles for the protagonist of the story and she even tries to make Mrs. de Winter commit suicide. Seeing the obsession as a threat to her, issues start to grow within Mrs. de Winter, so that she does some things which she believes would make her able to compete with Rebecca, Maxim’s first wife who is already passed away. Her personality changes due to what happened in Manderley and her own thoughts about Rebecca.

The character’s demeanor changes can be framed within psychoanalysis concepts. Not only human in real world that can be analyzed by this psychological concepts but also characters in literary works. Psychoanalytic criticism uses some techniques from psychoanalysis to determine interpretation in literature (Barry,
2002: 96). Rebecca does not even present in the story but she affects almost every character, just like how memory affect someone’s mind.

The changes of Mrs. de Winter’s attitude will be analyzed by seeing her character and characterization, how other characters react towards her, and vice versa. After seeing her characterization and her relation with other characters, the conflict and psychological motive will most likely be visible. The painful memory that she represses too will be visible after breaking down her character. Mrs. De Winter’s attitude changes also show her defense towards her surroundings. Sometimes the defenses turn out to become more destructive rather than helpful because they keep the person off from understanding the actual situation (Tyson, 2011: 83).

In this study, the writer tries to see whether or not childhood memory has an effect on Mrs. de Winter’s defense mechanism, since childhood is an important stage of human’s psychology and childhood usually determines what defense mechanism can possible formed in the adult life. After reading the novel, the writer is curious to analyze Mrs. de Winter’s issue, seeing her as a young and naïve girl who develops along the story. There is supposed to be something that she represses and overcomes to become a more mature person only in some months. To avoid confusion, the second Mrs. de Winter will be addressed as Mrs. de Winter and the late Mrs. de Winter as Rebecca.
B. Problem Formulation

1. How does Mrs. de Winter’s characterization reveal her core issues?

2. How does Mrs. De Winter’s childhood memory contributes to the core issues and result in the defense mechanism?

C. Objective of the Study

The first objective is to describe how the second Mrs. de Winter characterized through her dialogue and behavior, how other significant characters interact with her, and also how she reacts to them. From the characterization and conflicts, a conclusion of her core issues can be drawn.

The second objective is to elaborate Mrs. De Winter’s childhood memories and see their contribution to the core issues. Moreover, the second objective is also to reveal the relation between those memories to the self-defense that Mrs. De Winter uses to cope with her core issues.

D. Definition of Terms

The definitions of some words will guide the reader to understand this study.

1. Core Issue

Core issue is a psychological problem which becomes the cause of self-destructive behavior. The behavior shown by the person can be either permanent or temporary behavior. However, not all problems can be considered as core issue.
The problem is considered as core issue only if it is responsible for one’s emotional difficulties. It is also possible if one person can suffer from more than core issue (Tyson, 2011: 84).

Based on Tyson’s concept, there are five core issues that a person can possibly suffered from. They are low self-esteem, insecure or unstable sense of self, fear of abandonment, fear of intimacy, and oedipal fixation. These core issues are explained further in the second chapter of this study under Review of Related Theories.

2. Self-defense

Everyone has something that they repressed to the unconscious mind. Self-defense is a way to keep the repressed things from coming to conscious side. It develops during childhood but as the person grows, self-defense can become more destructive than helpful because it keeps them from understanding the real condition. Tyson mentions four kinds of defenses which are denial, avoidance, displacement, and projection. (Tyson, 2011: 83).
CHAPTER II
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A. Review of Related Studies

This shy girl has recently become Mrs. de Winter, but Rebecca was still Mrs. de Winter first and in the novel we can see the second Mrs. de Winter attempted to escape and cast aside those shadows. The struggle of Mrs. de Winter present wife to fight against the oppressive presence of the first wife reminds us of the central Freud’s theory through an Oedipus/Electra complex dimension (Margawati, 2010)

Margawati analyzed three female characters in Rebecca; Mrs. Danvers, Rebecca, and Mrs. de Winter through the perspective of psychoanalysis. She analyzed the characters through Sigmund Freud’s psychoanalytic theory which the concept of psychoanalysis is that unconscious ideas happened in mind, therefore they cannot be represented in real life. Repression is one clue to understand someone’s unconscious ideas and make the conscious mind understand them, repression itself is the act of hiding experiences, thoughts, desires, and memories.

Margawati used the formal structural model of Freud’s psychoanalysis which is Id, Ego, and Superego. Id is the biological needs of human and it is the source of every energy. Its priority is to seek satisfaction and fulfill one’s pleasure, it does not take reality to consideration when fulfilling them. Ego stands between Id and Superego. It balances the primitive needs of human and moral beliefs. Ego controls logical and realistic thinking, it manages demands from Id and reality.

Superego is the opposite of Id. Although both of them are part of unconscious mind, their difference is very significant. While Id concerns about
primitive needs, *Superego* concerns more about moral goal. *Superego* develops the sense of right or wrong and good or bad.

The first female character who was analyzed by Margawati was Rebecca, the late Mrs. De Winter. Margawati wrote that Rebecca was loved by all people except by Maxim De Winter. Maxim knew who Rebecca truly was despite her beauty and reputation, he said that Rebecca was nothing but evil. The second female character to be analyzed was Mrs. De Winter. Margawati concluded that the new mistress was oppressed by Rebecca and she suffered from Oedipal Fixation since she tried to kill Rebecca’s image as if she were her mother and she wanted to have Maxim for her own.

The last female character was Mrs. Danvers. She was overly obsessed with Rebecca and she always tried to keep the memory Rebecca alive around the mansion. She once tried to make the new Mrs. De Winter jumped out of the window just because she thought no one can ever took Rebecca’s place.

Another analysis about Mrs. De Winter’s character is done by Jennifer Taylor.

These descriptions of Rebecca make Mrs. De Winter feel second-class, ugly, and gauche. Having been exposed to Rebecca’s taste, intelligence, talent, and beauty, she begins to redefine femininity according to Rebecca’s character. Now, “grace, beauty, intelligence wit . . . [are] the qualities that mean most in a woman” (123), and she doesn’t have them. (Taylor, 2006)

Taylor analyzes Mrs. De Winter traits based on the text without referring to any criticism. She uses psychological perspective but does not go deeper to see it through psychoanalytic theory. Taylor analyzed the relationship between Rebecca and Mrs. De Winter to prove that women’s relationship is not always simply
jealousy. She wrote that Rebecca is not only an enemy to Mrs. De Winter but also a mentor, for in some ways Rebecca helped Mrs. De Winter found her limitations and strengths.

The first time Mrs. De Winter thought about Manderley she had the imagination that she would be the mistress of the great mansion and she would run things as she pleased in her own way. That imagination vanished when she met Mrs. Danvers since the housekeeper kept Rebecca alive all over the mansion. Mrs. Danvers ran things the way it was run by Rebecca and Mrs. De Winter did not dare to change anything.

Under the power of Rebecca, Mrs. De Winter learned her limitations and by the end of the story, when she revealed that Rebecca was not as good as everybody thought, Mrs. De Winter learned her strengths. The strengths were shown in her capability to think ahead of Maxim after his confession, she showed her determination to save her husband.

In this study, these traits of Mrs. De Winter’s in both Margawati’s and Taylor’s writings are very helpful in order to reveal Mrs. de Winter issues through Tyson’s concept and to reveal more information about Mrs. de Winter’s personal character. Their findings will be developed by the writer to answer the problem formulations in this study.

Although discussing the same object as Margawati, this study is different from hers in the way that Mrs. de Winter character is analyzed by Lois Tyson’s concepts from psychoanalytic theory. The result of the analyzation is a reveal on her defense mechanism and core issues and one of them might be also Oedipal
Fixation. The writer of this study analyzes further whether or not Oedipal Fixation as a result of childhood experience has any effects on Mrs. de Winter’s defense mechanism.

In Taylor’s analysis, her text about Mrs. De Winter’s characterization helps the writer to have an overview before analyzing them deeper with psychoanalytic theory. The writer is trying to elaborate some characterizations in Taylor’s text using Robert Stanton’s theory of character and characterization. After that, the writer tries to connect them to Mrs. De Winter’s childhood memory using the psychoanalytic concept by Tyson.

B. Review of Related Theories

1. Character and Characterization

Character can be defined by two meanings. The first one is individuals who appear in the story and the second one is how the person or the character acts in the story. Character’s traits and appearance can be described directly by the author or indirectly by other characters. This is called as characterization. It is how the character formed by their traits, behavior, and attitude. A character can be described by how they treat others and vice versa (Stanton, 1965: 17).

There are four evidences that can be used to analyze the characterization. The first one is by name. Name can carry information about the characters or their background; a name can be very suitable for a character or the other way around. The second is by personal description. Description of the character helps to visualize him or her and to understand them better. Their body language or
gesture might lead to some information about their traits. The third is evidences provided by other characters. It is how other characters react towards the central character and also their differences and similarities. The last evidence is by the character’s own dialogue and behavior. “Every speech and action is not only a step in the plot, but also a manifestation of character” (Stanton, 1965: 18).

The fourth evidence is also considered as the most important evidence in order to reveal the characterization. Therefore, the writer tries to analyzed deeper on Mrs. De Winter’s own gestures and speeches in order to help finding her core issues.

2. Lois Tyson’s Concept from Psychoanalytic Theory

Derived from Freud’s theory of psychoanalysis and Anne Freud’s development of ego defenses, Lois Tyson proposed her concept from psychoanalytic theory. In the concepts, she gives a brief and clear picture of how core issues and the defenses work.

Freud’s most famous model of human psyche is the tripartite model; the id, the ego, and the superego. Although they have different functions, these three parts happen together in the unconscious area of mind and therefore unconscious area becomes an important part to see a patient’s psychological problems. Unconscious area of mind becomes the place where unacceptable memories and sexual desires of early childhood are stored.

Similar Freud’s model that happens in unconscious area of mind, Tyson’s concept proposed the same point without putting more focus on the sexual desires. In Tyson’s concept, it is painful memories that are being repressed into the
unconscious area of mind. In further development of psychoanalysis theory, repression of painful memories is elaborated by Anna Freud, the daughter of Sigmund Freud.

Unlike her father, Anna Freud put her focus more into the theory of defense mechanism. Anna proposed six types of defense mechanism which are repression, denial, projection, displacement, regression, and sublimation. However, there is no exact number that has been agreed upon because the list is extensive (https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/sideways-view/201510/ego-defence-mechanisms-the-work-anna-freud). Anna refers her defense mechanism as the ego defenses. Memories that are stored in the unconscious are still able to affect a person’s behavior and when both the id and the superego become too demanding, the ego defenses appears naturally to keep a person from feeling anxious and unpleasant (http://www.simplypsychology.org/defense-mechanisms.html).

Freud said that childhood can be a very important part in forming defense mechanism, so did Tyson in his developed concept.

In his book, Using Critical Theory, Tyson states that:

As psychoanalytic theory tells us, we all encounter life-events, as we grow up, that shape our psychological development, and these early experiences tend to play out in our adult life. (Tyson, 2011:81)

Decision that we made in adult life is affected by what happened in our childhood, whether it is pleasant or not. The unpleasant memory is being repressed by the mind since it is human nature to forget the pain and relive
happiness. The memory that is being repressed unconsciously affects the person’s decision and their attitude towards the surrounding.

Tyson also mentioned the basic concepts of psychoanalytic theory, they are the family, repression and the unconscious, the defenses, the core issues, and dream symbolism. The first basic concept is family. Tyson stated that family is the most important factor in one’s emotional experiences, for in the family a person learns to sense their self and in the family the person firstly interact with others. Even though a person lives in a very loving family, it does not mean they are free from psychological problems (Tyson, 2011: 83).

The second point in Tyson’s basic concept is repression and the unconscious. Repression and unconscious mind are related to one another since what is being repressed is stored in the unconscious area. A person might not know what thing is repressed by him or her but it turns out to be one of the sources of emotion. The defenses are the weapon that a person uses to repress the hidden memory. Defenses are developed during childhood as a way to protect a person from emotional pain. (Tyson, 2011: 82-83)

In the third point which is the defenses, Tyson mentioned some self-defenses which are: denial, avoidance, displacement, and projection. When a person denies the pain that he or she feels, that person uses the first defense mechanism. Sometimes denial leads to avoidance, the act of avoiding people or place that will bring back the memory of the pain. As for displacement, it is a condition where a person takes out his or her negativity towards other people to
relieve their pressure. The last defense is projection, where a person thinks that some other person has the same pain as them. (Tyson, 2011: 84)

Defense mechanism appears when a person suffers from one or more core issues. In Tyson’s psychoanalytic concept, core issues is the fourth point is her basic concept. Tyson proposed five core issues that a person can possibly suffer from: low self-esteem, insecure or unstable sense of self, fear of abandonment, fear of intimacy, and oedipal fixation. A person may not be aware of his or her own core issues but there is at least one core issue that they are suffered from.

The first issue is low self-esteem. Having low self-esteem means that a person feels he or she is less valuable than other person, so they do not deserve to be loved. The second is insecure or unstable sense of self, it happens when a person is easily affected by and follow what other say, whether it is good or bad things. Third, fear of abandonment, when a person is afraid of being alone and unwanted, afraid of being neglected especially by loved ones. Fourth is fear of intimacy. Contrary to the third issues, this fear will cause the lack ability of trusting people. The last is oedipal fixation, where there is a dysfunctional bond with parent of the opposite sex, making a person unable to build an adult relationship with others (2012:84).

As for the concept of dream symbolism, Tyson said that this concept is used to interpret literary work as if it is a dream. Certain objects in the literary work may reflect the character’s psychological condition like dream symbolizes something in human’s life (2011: 85).
These points can be found when a character is analyzed throughout the story. Looking at his or her characterization results in finding the core issues and defenses. After finding the two points, the family is analyzed to reveal whether there is a relation between the three points or not. Finding the core issues that caused self-destructive behaviour is important in order to cure the psychological problems within a person or a character.

C. Theoretical Framework

In this study, only one character is analyzed which is Mrs. de Winter. The theory of character and characterization is used to analyze her personality and to answer the first problem formulation. Knowing the character of Mrs. de Winter is very important because only from there the character can be analyzed further to answer the other problems formulation. According to Stanton, the most important aspect in a character is their own dialogue and behavior, both are the manifestation of the character. Besides that, the significance of other characters towards Mrs. de Winter can also help in defining her character.

When the writer gets a clear picture of Mrs. De Winter’s characterization, the writer analyzes and uses Tyson’s basic concept of core issue as a guide to identify the issue(s) within Mrs. de Winter. Using the previous analysis of character and conflict, a possible core issue will be identified by the theory and the result will lead to the finding of which defense mechanism is used by Mrs. de Winter to overcome her core issue(s).
After finding the core issue(s) and the defense(s), the writer examines Mrs. De Winter’s childhood and sees if there are any painful memories that could be repressed into the unconscious mind. Using the basic concept of psychoanalytic theory by Tyson—the family and repression and the unconscious— the writer tries to find the impact of Mrs. De Winter’s childhood memory and her defense mechanism.
CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

A. Object of the Study

Rebecca is a classic gothic novel with a remarkable opening line written by Daphne du Maurier. Since its first publication in 1938, Rebecca gains popularity and is considered as Maurier’s masterpiece that it wins the Anthony Award for Best Novel of the Century. The novel which is published by Victor Gollancz is sold more than two million copies between 1938 and 1965 and made to big screen directed by Alfred Hitchcock in 1940. This study however, uses the novel which is published in 2006.

Rebecca is a novel about a young girl who is married to Maxim de Winter; a successful business man who owns a great mansion and is older than her. Arriving in Manderley, the great mansion, she meets the peculiar housekeeper, Mrs. Danvers who happens to be obsessed with the late Mrs. de Winter, Rebecca. Mrs. Danvers does not even bother to cover her obsession. She talks about Rebecca over and over on the presence of Mrs. De Winter in attempt to make Mrs. De Winter leave Manderley. The young girl is so affected by Rebecca’s charm that she begins to feel anxious and thinks that her husband does not actually love her.

The story of Rebecca is is based on the author’s story herself. Maurier identifies Rebecca as her husband’s first fiancée, Jan Ricardo. Ricardo is sending Maurier’s husband letters and although they are harmless letters, Maurier still felt anxious about them. From Jan Ricardo and her remarkable ‘R’ letter in her
signature, Maurier found Rebecca. Ricardo did not drown like Rebecca, though, she was hit by a train and it had nothing to do with Maurier or her marriage. Manderley also comes from Maurier’s life. The great mansion is a picture of her grandparent’s house.

The story revolves around Mrs. De Winter and her marriage life. She is an orphan and has no other family to live with. In a young age, she becomes a companion to Mrs. Van Hopper before finally decides to marry Maxim De Winter whom she just met for a few days. Maxim De Winter is a fancy man well-known for his mansion, Manderley.

Mrs. De Winter is very fond of her marriage despite of Mrs. Van Hopper’s warning. Although she has a very different background from Maxim, she finds her confidence as the new wife of Maxim De Winter but it soon disappears as soon as she reached Manderley. She becomes powerless as she faces Mrs. Danvers—the housekeeper. Mrs. De Winter finds out more about Maxim’s first wife—Rebecca, especially trough Mrs. Danvers who is obsessed with the previous mistress.

Mrs. De Winter finds herself put in a competition with Rebecca. She begins to question herself and Maxim’s love for her. In the end of the novel, it is revealed that Maxim never loves Rebecca and that he murders her. Despite of the crime that he commits, Mrs. De Winter tries to prevent her husband from being prisoned.

In the film industry, there was a protest about the ending when the novel was adapted to the screen. Society did not accept if Maxim De Winter—the
husband was freed from his murder due to moral value, so an alternative ending had to be made in order to follow the norm.

For feminists, Rebecca is a book about the fear of powerful women, and especially of women who assert their sexual freedom. Rebecca is killed because she defies the patriarchal order. Not only is she unfaithful, she proposes a sham marriage. (Hoggard: 2006)

Liz Hoggard, in her article for The Independent “Literary greats: Rebecca - Love, paranoia, obsession”, wrote some of the people’s reaction towards the novel. People from different backgrounds have different perspective about Rebecca. Feminists support both Rebecca and Mrs. De Winter although they had different characteristics, each of them portrayed particular conditions of women and their power.

B. Approach of the Study

The approach used in this study is psychoanalytic criticism. Psychoanalytic criticism is a way of interpreting literary works. At first, psychoanalytic criticism was focusing only on the author before it developed and characters in the text became the focus, the characters’ motivations and actions then became more complex than before and this approach attempts to explain the hows and whys of human actions. Psychoanalytic criticism is chosen as the approach because it uses aspects from psychoanalysis to analyze the object and it helps the writer to reveal the psychological problems within characters, especially regarding the defense mechanism.

This approach uses some techniques from psychoanalysis which is meant to cure mental disorders by looking through the interaction of conscious and
unconscious state in mind. The hypothesis of this approach is defense mechanism, a mechanism to repress pain, desire, and wish which produced by the Id (Barry, 2002: 96).

C. Method of the Study

This study is a library research where the primary source is the novel *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier. The secondary sources are taken from Lois Tyson’s *Using Critical Theory*, M. H. Abrams’ *A Glossary of Literary Terms/Seventh Edition*, Terry Eagleton’s * Literary Theory An Introduction Second Edition*, and Peter Barry’s *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory*. The other sources are printed and electronic books as well as articles related to the review of the novel, and previous published thesis.

There are several steps taken in this study. The first step is close reading. Reading the novel several times and focus on details of the character; the narration, dialogues, her interaction with other characters, and her gestures. The next step taken is analyzing the character of Mrs. de Winter and breaking down the findings to Tyson’s basic concept of core issues. The same method applies in order to find Mrs. De Winter’s defense mechanism. The last step is analyzing Mrs. De Winter’s childhood and relating it to her defense mechanism to reveal whether childhood memory can affect the mechanism or not.
CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

The analysis is divided into two parts. The first part is about the core issues of Mrs. De Winter. They are revealed through narrations and dialogues which portray Mrs. De Winter’s appearance and personality. This analysis follows the theory of character and characterization by Robert Stanton. After analyzing Mrs. De Winter throughout the story, the writer puts the findings into the frame of psychoanalytic concept proposed by Lois Tyson, it is meant to identify the possible core issue(s). The second part is about the childhood memories of Mrs. De Winter. After breaking down her childhood memories, the writer uses the previous findings about core issues to see In this part, the relation between her childhood memories and They are broken down into two parts and self-defense of Mrs. De Winter which is reflected in her way to cope with the problems in the story.

A. Revealing Mrs. De Winter’s Core Issues through her Characterization

As a human being, it is normal for a person to have an issue or even more issues in his or her life. People can seem to have a happy life, but as humans people always have at least one core issue within themselves. Core issue is a psychological problem that causes a person to commit self-destructive behavior. However, the behavior is not always caused a massive harm to themselves. It can
be a simple daily behavior such as always being late, repeatedly choosing abusive partners, and or having other bad habits (Tyson, 2011: 84).

This condition applies not only to real-life person but also to fictional characters, for researchers –when doing their research or study on a particular literature topic, positioned characters as if they are human beings with feelings and motives. In this study, the writer is breaking down Mrs. De Winter’s characterization into five core issues based on Lois Tyson’s concepts from psychoanalytic theory. The five core issues are; low self-esteem, insecure or unstable sense of self, fear of abandonment, fear of intimacy, and oedipal fixation.

In order to find the core issues, analyzing Mrs. De Winter’s characterization is an important part to reveal them. Her characterization helps to elaborate her personality and from there the psychoanalysis theory can be applied to see Mrs. De Winter’s motives and problems. According to Robert Stanton there are four evidences that can be used to describe a character. The four evidences are names, personal descriptions, evidences provided by other characters, and the character’s own dialogue and behaviour.

To begin with, taken from the first evidence of Mrs. De Winter’s characterization; she is nameless. Maurier decided not to name her heroine because she could not think of one and she thought that it would be easier since she wrote the story in the first person point of view (Du Maurier, 2006: 388). Name can be an overview of a character whereas it can carry certain meaning and sometimes it fits the character perfectly. On the other hand, by not naming a character there would not be a starting point of the character’s image. In
Rebecca, there are no clue about how Mrs. De Winter was before she became the mistress of Manderley and no hints about her character or her background through her name, so the writer can only lay the analysis on the other evidences.

The next evidence is by personal description. Personal description can come from both the narration and comments from other characters. Mrs. De Winter is the narrator of the story, so any descriptions from the narration is based on her opinion. Unfortunately, there is not much of personal description from Mrs. De Winter herself or from other characters. However, there are statements that say Mrs. De Winter is a young person, much younger than her husband.

“How old are you?” he said, and when I told him he laughed, and got up from his chair. “I know that age, it’s a particularly obstinate one, and a thousand bogies won’t make you fear the future. A pity we can’t change over. Go upstairs and put your hat on, and I’ll have the car brought around.” (Maurier, 2006: 27).

Maxim is forty-two years old. It makes him have more experience about life than Mrs. De Winter. His statement above also confirms that he has been in that age before and has seen many with the same age.

The third type of evidence is provided by other characters even the minor ones. It is how other characters react towards the central character. The writer of this study chooses several characters whose reaction towards Mrs. De Winter is significant and different from each other. The last evidence and the most important one is the character’s own dialogue and behavior. These two evidences are elaborated directly in the core issues section in the following paragraphs.

After reading the novel and analyzing the character through the three evidences, the writer finds that Mrs. De Winter has only three core issues. The
other two issues which are fear of intimacy and oedipal fixation do not have significant role in playing as the core issue. Moreover, the writer only finds little proof about these two issues. Fear of intimacy and oedipal fixation do not play as the core issues but as just issue. In other studies researchers might only analyze Mrs. De Winter from one issue but do not state the issue as the core issue, like what Margawati does in her thesis.

The term oedipal fixation often applied to boys while Electra fixation is used for girls who suffer from this issue (Margawati, 2010: 124). She refers to Freud’s psychological issues and puts Rebecca and Maxim as if they are Mrs. De Winter’s parents to find that Mrs. De Winter develops a strong attachment towards Maxim and tries to replace Rebecca.

The three other issues are considered as core issues because they are responsible for Mrs. De Winter’s emotional difficulties and the source of her self-destructive behavior. These three issues too, prevent her from facing her life problems.

Low self-esteem is a condition where a person believes that they are less worthy than the others therefore they do not deserve any attentions (Tyson, 2011: 84). In the story Mrs. De Winter shows many indications of having low self-esteem but the most obvious sign is that she is rather difficult to express her mind and her feelings. Other than that, as seen through her own narration, she always compares herself to the late mistress, Rebecca and when comparing, she puts herself as the inferior. The rising of her low self-esteem occurs first when she sits
in Rebecca’s desk and sees how organized it is. Moreover when she compares her writing to the late mistress’.

I noticed for the first time how cramped and unformed was my own hand-writing, without individuality, without style, uneducated even, the writing of an indifferent pupil taught in a second-rate school (Maurier, 2006: 89).

It is not the only time where Mrs. De Winter compares herself to Rebecca. Throughout the story, Mrs. De Winter keeps on comparing herself to Rebecca and as the result, her self-esteem keeps on decreasing. The comparison does not only come from inside of her but also from other characters especially Mrs. Danvers, the housekeeper. From their first encounter, Mrs. De Winter felt intimidated by the housekeeper and her nervousness keeps on showing when she is around Mrs. Danvers.

She came towards me, and I held out my hand, envying her for her dignity and her composure, but when she took my hand hers was limp and heavy, deadly cold and it lay in mine like a lifeless thing (Maurier, 2006: 67-68).

She even drops her gloves (Maurier, 2006: 68) after shaking Mrs. Danvers’ hand. By Mrs. De Winter’s narration of envying the housekeeper, the writer analyzes that she does not have the qualities in quotation above which are Mrs. Danvers’ dignity and composure, she keeps on feeling nervous when meeting new people and her shyness always takes the best of her. Before she arrived at Manderley, she has a high expectation on how her new life is going to run, how she will run Manderley with people adoring her, and she will be with Maxim all the time. Unfortunately, her optimism vanishes as soon as she sees the actual Manderley and the staff who are waiting to greet her.
A person with low self-esteem tends to be pessimistic towards people and groups within society and they often interpret comments as critique (http://www.simplypsychology.org/self-esteem.html). Mrs. De Winter always assumes that the house staffs talk about her behind her back and she thinks that they are making fun of her clumsiness and shyness. In other occasion, she always thinks that people are comparing her to Rebecca. Her anxiety makes her wants to avoid meeting people (Maurier, 2006: 90) where she wondered if it is possible to hide from Maxim’s sister who is visiting her that time. Mrs. De Winter also says that she is gauche and awkward, she is not fashionable and shy around people (Maurier, 2006: 150).

As for taking comments as critical comments, when Beatrice –Maxim’s sister says that Mrs. De Winter is very different from Rebecca (Maurier, 2006: 107) she misinterprets the sentence to as if Beatrice does not like her and she is far from the expectation, that she is a social butterfly on their society like Rebecca.

Unconsciously I shivered, as though someone had opened the door behind me, and let a draught into the room. I was sitting in Rebecca’s chair, I was leaning against Rebecca’s cushion, and the dog had come to me and laid his head upon my knee because that had been his custom, and he remembered, in the past, she had given sugar to him there. (Maurier, 2006: 79)

The scene above happens in the early time when Mrs. De Winter arrives at Manderley and she is already affected by Mrs. Danvers’ obsession of Rebecca. Mrs. Danvers in fact, tries to make the new mistress feels that she does not belong at Manderley and that she would never be able to replace Rebecca. The main thing that underlies Mrs. De Winter’s low self-esteem is her lack of self-worthy and that also leads her to the second core issue.
The next core issue is being **insecure or unstable sense of self**. People who suffer from this issue are easy to be influenced by their surroundings (Tyson, 2011: 84). Insecurity can surface when a person sees another person who is better than them. It can be from the way that another person dresses, behaves, and or the society they are in. Mrs. De Winter is being optimistic before she comes to Manderley but when she knows there is Rebecca, she turns into a pessimistic person which can be seen from the following narration:

I forced a smile, and did not answer him, aware now of a stab of panic, and uneasy sickness that could not be controlled. Gone was my glad excitement, vanished my happy pride. I was like a child brought to her first school, or a little untrained maid who has never left home before, seeking a situation. Any measurement of self-possession I had gained hitherto, during the brief seven weeks of marriage, was like a rag now, fluttering before the wind. (Maurier, 2006: 63)

“‘You haven’t the experience,’” she continued, “‘you don’t know that milieu. You can scarcely string two sentences together at my bridge teas, what are you going to say to all his friends? The Manderley parties were famous when she was alive. Of course he’s told you all about them?’” (Maurier, 2006: 60)

Based on the passage above, Mrs. Van Hopper tries to warn Mrs. De Winter about the marriage. She thinks that Mrs. De Winter is still young – too young and naïve. Mrs. De Winter does not have that much experience of life since she lives in a small group; she has no family, no home, and lives only with Mrs. Van Hopper as a companion. There are no explanations on how or where Mrs. De Winter lives after her parents passed away or before she becomes a paid companion to Mrs. Van Hopper to support herself, but this limited interaction with people makes her social life undeveloped.
Mrs. De Winter's insecurity and unstable sense of self comes from her young age and her experience in the early life. In the beginning of the story Mrs. De Winter often say, “I was a youthful thing and unimportant,” (Maurier, 2006: 14) and “I was too young,” (Maurier, 2006: 16) also other similar statements saying that she is young. Being young and having low self-esteem make Mrs. De Winter vulnerable to influence as she wants to be more than Rebecca.

Mrs. De Winter is told to change her hairstyle by Beatrice. Beatrice orders her to sweep the hair back behind her ears and Mrs. De Winters follows without hesitation, “I did so obediently, and waited for her approval.” (Maurier, 2006: 101) she said. Not long after Beatrice’s first visit, Mrs. De Winter asks her husband about her hair, whether he likes it or not, she considers her hair as mousy and dull unlike Rebecca’s, so when she has to dress up for the ball she is very excited because she finally can be someone else.

I covered my own mousy hair with the curled wig trying to hide my triumph, trying to hide my smile. Somebody came and hammered on the door (Maurier, 2006: 214).

Mousy is dull brown color and there is also another meaning which is shy or quiet. Another proof that Mrs. De Winter is easily influenced is when Mrs. Danvers tells her to copy a costume from a painting in Manderley’s gallery (Maurier, 2006: 217).

Mrs. Danvers is one of the influences that Mrs. De Winter follows. Mrs. Danvers is obsessed with Rebecca. She worships Rebecca even after the mistress is dead. She does not like Mrs. De Winter’s presence so she continuously mentions things that are related to Rebecca with an intention to disturb Mrs. De Winter’s being. Even though Mrs. De Winter notices, she still trusts the
housekeeper’s advice which causes her a misfortune in the ball; she dresses exactly like Rebecca and that makes Maxim beyond angry.

After the incident, Mrs. De Winter comes back to Rebecca’s room and sees Mrs. Danvers, she starts to gain her confidence as she confronts the housekeeper but it is not enough to overcome her insecurities, even when Mrs. Danvers tells her to jump off of a window, Mrs. De Winter follows the every words.

“Why don’t you go?” she said. “We none of us want you. He doesn’t want you, he never did. He can’t forget her. He wants to be alone in the house again, with her. It’s you who ought to be dead, not Mrs. De Winter.” (Maurier, 2006: 250)

Mrs. Danvers’ dialogue expresses her hatred towards the current Mrs. De Winter and the mistress generalized her opinion as everyone’s feeling including Maxim’s. Mrs. Danvers tries to influence the central character with her opinion that Rebecca is better than Mrs. De Winter and in a point, Mrs. De Winter starts to believe the opinion. Aside from being easily influenced, this also shows that the new mistress is naïve because even when she already knows that Mrs. Danvers is obsessed with Rebecca yet Mrs. De Winter still follows her advice and she thinks it is a sign of peace between them.

The third core issue is **fear of abandonment** which is sometimes expressed as fear of betrayal, it is a condition where a person has a belief that their loved ones are going to leave them and or cannot be trusted not to talk behind their back or cheat on them (Tyson, 2011: 84).

Mrs. De Winter’s reason for having low self-esteem is because she feels inferior to Rebecca. From the beginning of the story, Mrs. De Winter believes that Maxim loves her faithfully but as the story goes and she finds out more about
Rebecca, she begins to think that Maxim still loves Rebecca. She avoids an argument with Maxim after being so confident about what she was doing and she pleads Maxim so that he would not be angry to her:

“Please, Maxim, please.” I said.
“What’s the matter?” he said roughly.
“I don’t want you to look like that,” I said. “It hurts too much. Please, Maxim. Let’s forget all we said. A futile silly argument. I’m sorry, darling. I’m sorry. Please let everything be alright.” (Maurier, 2006: 118)

Mrs. De Winter concludes that Maxim is still in love with Rebecca without asking him, only based on Mrs. Danvers’ opinion and her false conclusion. She is very sure that the reason behind Maxim’s treatment to her is because he does not love her back. Mrs. De Winter confirms her fear in her narration:

I knelt up straight beside him. “Whenever you touched me I thought you were comparing me to Rebecca,” I said. “Whenever you spoke to me or looked at me, walked with me in the garden, sat down to dinner, I felt you were saying to yourself, ‘This I did with Rebecca, and this, and this.’” He stared at me bewildered, as though he did not understand. (Maurier, 2006: 275)

Her act of accusing Maxim leads to Mrs. De Winter’s hesitation in having a further intimacy with her husband as portrayed in her narration:

We were not companions. We were not suited to one another. I was too young for Maxim, too inexperienced, and more important still, I was not of his world. The fact that I loved him in a sick, hurt, desperate way, like a child or a dog, did not matter. It was not the sort of love he needed. He wanted something else that I could not give him, something he had before. (Maurier, 2006: 236)

It is also shown in the following quotation:

“I thought you were unhappy, bored,” he said. “I’m so much older than you. You seemed to have more to say to Frank than you ever had to me. You were funny with me, awkward, shy.”
“How could I come to you when I knew you were thinking about Rebecca?” I said. “How could I ask you to love me when I knew you loved Rebecca still?” (Maurier, 2006: 275)
However, after Maxim confesses that he never loves Rebecca, all of her issues seemed to vanish. When Mrs. De Winter finally knows the true reason to why her husband distance himself, she turns into a confident woman as she gives orders about what Maxim should do to avoid being prisoned. Mrs. De Winter’s fear of abandonment makes an appearance as she defends her husband’s crime because she is afraid to lose him and the fact that he kills Rebecca is no longer a matter, “I did not care about his shame. None of the things that he had told me mattered to me at all.” (Maurier, 2006: 278).

From the five core issues that Tyson had proposed, there are only three issues that are possible to become Mrs. De Winter’s core issues, they are; low self-esteem, insecure or unstable sense of self, and fear of abandonment. These three issues are majoring in Mrs. De Winter’s the self-destructive behavior, for they keep her from understanding the real reason behind every situations and mostly responsible for the emotional difficulties that occurs in her life. Her low self-esteem and insecurity prevent her from developing herself and her social skill whereas her fear of abandonment makes her fail to choose what is morally right and decide to defend her husband’s crime.

B. Mrs. De Winter’s Childhood Memory and its Impact on her Core Issues and Defense Mechanism

Defense mechanism is meant to defend a person from being aware of what he or she represses, this mechanism develops during childhood for protecting his or her self emotionally. The memory that is being repressed into the unconscious is painful memories that the person does not want to remember. Defense
mechanism appears when a person feels that he or she is in a condition that can remind them of that memory, therefore the defenses keeps people from understanding their psychological wounds and from healing (Tyson, 2011:84).

As an adult, the person might not know where the emotional problems come from because of the repression. In addition, the person also is not aware of the defenses that he or she performs as McLeod wrote in his article that “defense mechanisms operate at an unconscious level and help ward off unpleasant feelings” (http://www.simplypsychology.org/defense-mechanisms.html).

Tyson said that the most obvious sign of having a repressed memory is repetition of self-destructive behavior, one of them is becoming defensive when certain topics come up in a conversation. However, this defense mechanism becomes more destructive rather than helping as the person grows up. (Tyson, 2011: 83).

The self-destructive behavior mentioned above is also done by Mrs. De Winter. When it comes to the topic of Rebecca, she becomes defensive and chooses to avoid the conversation.

There are four defenses in Tyson’s basic concept which are: denial, avoidance, displacement, and projection (Tyson, 2011: 84). After analyzing throughout the story, the writer finds there are two defenses that Mrs. De Winter uses to repress her painful memory, the two defenses are denial and avoidance. In this part of analysis, the writer relates Mrs. De Winter’s childhood memories to her defense mechanism in order to cope with the issues.
In basic concepts that are proposed by Tyson, family becomes the most important source of early emotional experiences because inside the family a person gets to establish his or her sense for the first time (Tyson, 2011: 83). A person’s adult personality is the result of her or his emotional experiences while growing up and therefore what happens in family has major effect on it. In both Freud’s and Lacan’s psychoanalysis theory, their stages of developing a person’s psychology also happen while growing up and the psychological problems arose when a child does not pass one of the stages.

Throughout the novel, there is not much to know about Mrs. De Winter’s childhood for she does not explain further about her family. There are only two childhood memories that Mrs. De Winter explains, and they affect both her core issues and defense mechanism.

1. **Memory of A Loving Family**

Mrs. De Winter lives in a small family of three people. Her parents passed away when she was just a young girl, there is not much memory to be remembered but she is always sure that her parents love each other. The first time she describes her family is when she finally opens up to Maxim. Her thoughts about her parents are reflected in the following passage:

> My shyness fell away from me, loosening as it did so my reluctant tongue, and out they all came, the little secrets of childhood, the pleasures and the pains. It seemed to me as though he understood, from my poor description, something of the vibrant personality that had been my father’s, and something too of the love my mother had for him, making it a vital, living force, with a spark of divinity about it, so much that when he died that desperate winter, struck down by pneumonia, she lingered behind him for five short week and stayed no more. (Maurier, 2006: 24)
In that passage, Mrs. De Winter explains about how the relation between her father and her mother is. She says that love is an important thing in the family and it is love that makes her mother only lasts weeks before facing her death. The condition gives an idea that Mrs. De Winter’s mother cannot live without the husband.

For that reason, the picture of a couple who loves each other till death does them apart attaches to her mind. She does not have much experience either on relationship and that makes her put her parents’ relationship as her idol. So when Maxim proposes her, she is beyond ecstatic albeit Mrs. Van Hopper has warned her about the marriage as is shown in the quotation below:

“Of course,” she said, “you know why he is marrying you, don’t you? You haven’t flattered yourself he’s in love with you? The fact that empty house got on his nerves to such an extent he nearly went off his head. He admitted as much before you came into the room. He just can’t go on living there alone….” (Maurier, 2006: 61)

Mrs. Van Hopper has her doubts about the marriage, for she knows Mrs. De Winter’s background and she knows well how great Manderley is, she is afraid that Mrs. De Winter does not fit in the fancy life; the people Mrs. De Winter has to meet and the parties she has to arrange. However, as the writer has stated in the previous part, Mrs. De Winter has a high expectation on her marriage, all she knows is marriage will be full of happiness and people will compliment her for being charming and kind. She imagines her marriage life as a perfect one where the husband and wife love each other and people addressed them as the romantic couple, it is portrayed in her narration below:

And suddenly I realised that it would all happen, I would be his wife, we would walk in the garden together, we would stroll down that path in the valley to the shingle beach. I knew how I would stands on the
steps after breakfast, looking at the day, throwing crumbs to the birds, and later wander out in shady hat with long scissors in my hand, and cut flowers for the house. (Maurier, 2006: 54)

When Mrs. De Winter marries Maxim, she thinks that she finally has someone who will live by her side until the end of her life but then Rebecca’s shadow comes in. Mrs. De Winter thinks that Maxim is still in love with Rebecca and that their love is undying, so she does not have a space in Maxim’s life and she can never replace Rebecca. However, Mrs. De Winter denies that there is a problem in her marriage life due to her high expectation on relationship. Mrs. De Winter still wants to believe that her relationship can be a perfect one just like her parents’.

Related to what the writer had mentioned above, Mrs. De Winter denies her problem means that she performs one of the defense mechanism which is denial. Mrs. De Winter also shows a sign of denial when she is being compared to Rebecca, she insists that the comparison does not affect her and Rebecca does not have any impact towards her being or her marriage. This is seen from when she visits Maxim’s grandmother along with Beatrice and the grandmother keeps on asking for Rebecca. After the fuss, Mrs. De Winter says, “I don’t mind, I don’t mind,” repeatedly and she says that the subject does not interest her “What did it matter after all? What did anything matter?” (Maurier, 2006: 190). On the contrary, Mrs. De Winter keeps on thinking about overpowering Rebecca’s shadow.

Denial works as the defense that she uses to repress her first core issue which is low self-esteem. McLeod wrote in his article that “defense mechanism appears to defend a person from feeling anxious or when he or she feels
threatened” (http://www.simplypsychology.org/defense-mechanisms.html) and Mrs. De Winter’s low self-esteem is triggered when people start to talk about Rebecca, her self-esteem seems to be instantly decreased when the topic surfaces.

Mrs. De Winter feels that her position as Maxim’s wife is threatened when she realizes that her marriage is not as what she had expected. Mrs. De Winter’s worry is reflected in the following narration:

What I had thought was love for me, for myself as a person, was not love. It was just that he was a man, and I was his wife and was young, and he was lonely. He did not belong to me at all, he belonged to Rebecca. He still thought about Rebecca. He would never love me because of Rebecca. (Maurier, 2006: 237)

However, although Mrs. De Winter states that Rebecca is the cause of her condition, in another scene Mrs. De Winter still denies it by saying that she does not know why she minds people talk about Rebecca and that it is not suppose to cause her much distress (Maurier, 2006: 135).

In Mrs. De Winter’s story, denial is performed to defend herself from bringing out her low self-esteem. The writer had said above that Mrs. De Winter denies her concern about Rebecca in her marriage life, in other words, Mrs. De Winter denies that she is the inferior when being compared to Rebecca. Admitting that she is the inferior would ignite her low self-esteem and her defense mechanism tries to protect her from the core issue and make her able to cope with it.

The thought of always being under Rebecca’s shadow drains Mrs. De Winter’s spirit and she is no longer cheerful like the first time she meets Maxim. After series of living in Manderley and facing each problem, she finally knows the story of Maxim’s marriage with Rebecca. She gains back her optimism the day
after, “My heart was light like a feather floating in the air. He had never loved Rebecca.” (Maurier, 2006: 278) and she is no longer feeling as the inferior.

2. Memory of Losing her Family

Mrs. De Winter only lived with her parents and she does not have any other family besides them. She lost her father to pneumonia and her mother stayed only five weeks after his death. The writer finds that the pain which Mrs. De Winter tries to repress is her loss caused by her parents’ death. She refuses to be left alone for the second time and her defense mechanism helps her to prevent that from happening.

Maxim kills Rebecca and sinks her boat along with her body inside the cabin. A night after a bad weather, a body is found in Edgecombe and Maxim claims it is Rebecca’s body. When another boat crashes months later, a diver is sent to identify its back but he accidentally finds Rebecca’s boat with a body inside. This report causes new speculations on Rebecca’s death so the authorized reinvestigate the case. If the truth is revealed, Maxim would be in prison for his crime. Mrs. De Winter is aware of the situation and she feels her togetherness with Maxim is threatened and she does not want to lose Maxim after he confesses his love for her.

Then he went into the room to answer it, shutting the door behind him as he had done before. The queer nagging pain had not left me yet. It returned again in greater force with the ringing of the bell. The feel of it took me back across the years to my childhood. This was the pain I had known when I was very small and the maroons had sounded in the streets of London, and I had sat, shivering, not understanding, under a little cupboard beneath the stairs. It was the same feeling, the same pain. (Maurier, 2006: 291)
Mrs. De Winter flashes back her memory to when her parents passed away. In the passage above, she expresses her childhood memory as a pain, she does not want to feel the pain again and she will if Maxim is being prisoned for his crime. She is too, feel relieved when she knows that Maxim is not leaving after the party’s incident where Maxim is undoubtedly upset by her costume.

And then I realised for the first time that Maxim had not gone away as I had feared [] Maxim had not gone away [] All my fears were without foundation. Maxim was safe. Maxim was alright. I had just experienced something that I did not fully understand even now, that I had no wish to remember, that I wanted to bury forever more deep in the shadows of my mind with the old forgotten terrors of childhood, but even this did not matter as long as Maxim was all right. (Maurier, 2006: 255-256)

Her childhood memory and her fear of being left alone affect her core issues as well as her defense mechanism. The memory of losing her family sparks her fear of abandonment and Mrs. De Winter tries to prevent herself from feeling the pain all over again, that is where her second defense mechanism works.

Since loss of her family is the memory that she represses, her conscious mind ought to make sure that she will not feel the pain again and avoidance is the defense that she uses. Avoidance is the act of avoiding people or situations, moreover, ones that might stir up the painful memory (Tyson, 2011: 84). Mrs. De Winter wants to avoid the situation which can remind her of her parents’ death and being alone may stir her painful memory. Moreover, her fear of abandonment makes her does not want to be alone. She is afraid that she will lose Maxim just like she looses her parents.

Mrs. De Winter’s fear of abandonment triggers her avoidance. Despite of feeling inferior in the beginning of the story, Mrs. De Winter is able to think of a
way out to Maxim’s crime in order to prevent herself from being alone again; she tells Maxim what to do and helps him to make a false alibi, leaving her low self-esteem and insecurity behind as she becomes the dominant character. Mrs. De Winter also puts aside the moral value for she helps to cover up a murder (Maurier, 2006: 287).

Furthermore, from the explanation of this chapter, it can be concluded that Mrs. De Winter’s major self-defense is avoidance as she uses this defense mechanism to cope with many of her problems. Mrs. De Winter, in her first arrival to Manderley tries her best to avoid meeting many people to cope with her low self-esteem and her insecurity. She prefers to avoid people and situations rather than to face them and learn about the real condition in Manderley.
CHAPTER V
CONCLUSION

In this chapter, there are some conclusions to be drawn from the previous analysis. This study is conducted to answer two problems formulation in the first chapter. The first one is to find out Mrs. De Winter’s core issues by analyzing her characterization. The second is to describe Mrs. De Winter’s childhood memories and to find a relation between the memories and her defense mechanism that she uses to cope with the issues.

Firstly, Mrs. De Winter is characterized through some evidences: her own description, her own dialogues also her behavior, and how other characters react towards her attitude. After the analysis, it is found that Mrs. De Winter has three core issues which are low self-esteem, insecure or unstable sense of self, and fear of abandonment.

Mrs. De Winter describes herself as a dull and not fashionable woman. This is where her lack of self-worthy leads to her first core issue: low self-esteem. She constantly compares herself to Rebecca and put herself as the inferior. In further analysis, Mrs. De Winter’s gesture shows that she is nervous around people especially new people. She is also most likely to take comments as critical comments and over think the comments.

Mrs. De Winter is still young and that makes her easily affected by her surroundings and advices. This condition leads to her second core issues which is insecure or unstable sense of self. Mrs. De Winter is easy to take advice which she
thinks can improve herself. She takes advice to change her appearance and the way she dresses in hope to be able to compete with Rebecca and overcome the previous mistress. Mrs. De Winter even takes the advice from the nemesis or an antagonist character, Mrs. Danvers although she recognizes that Mrs. Danvers is obsessed with Rebecca.

The third core issue is fear of abandonment. Mrs. De Winter has a belief where Maxim is still in love with Rebecca but that only based on her own opinion. She thinks that it is the reason to why Maxim distances himself. Mrs. De Winter would avoid to have any quarrels with Maxim so that he will not be upset with her. However, once she finds out that Maxim never loves Rebecca, Mrs. De Winter feels so happy and she defends her husband despite of his crime, in a way, she puts aside the society’s value and moral value in order to keep Maxim by her side.

To cope with her core issues, Mrs. De Winter use denial and avoidance as her defense mechanism but her avoidance is more significant rather than her denial. Mrs. De Winter’s avoidance is affected by her childhood memory. Her parents passed away when she was young and she has no family left. The pain that she felt when she lost her parents comes again after she knows about Maxim’s crime. She tries her best to avoid the pain by defending Maxim and tell him to make a false story. That is how childhood memory affects her self-defense.

Since most defense mechanism develops during childhood, it is rather hard to separate the memory from a person’s self-defense. In every psychoanalysis theory, childhood is the important stage of self-building and emotional building.
Whatever events happen in childhood, they will most likely to affect a person’s psychological state in their adults’ time, therefore, there is always an implication of childhood memory to defense mechanism.
Bibliography


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