

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### I.1 Background

In the context of literary works, characters reflect individuals who take a role or who are involved in the development of stories. The term is often used to refer to the characteristics, attributes, or personalities that determine how a character is manifested in a story. The term "character" in the story context refers to an individual or an artist in a narrative. Therefore, characters include attributes or dispositions possessed by characters who play a role or are involved in the story. Characters and personalities are things that can't be separated literary works. Literature analysis commonly involves analyzing the characters in a story. The analysis of literary works includes, among others, the analysis of films because the features of films are similar to those of literary text (Klarer, 2004).

The film of *Argylle* is one of the literary works that uses the genre of action with the theme of espionage depicted through the characters. In the film, there is a unique character named Elly Conway, who is portrayed as a writer with an introverted and shy personality. She is also portrayed as a character who has personality disorder, namely Dissociative Amnesia (DA). According to American Psychiatric Association (2013), DA is an inability to recall important autobiographical information that should be successfully stored in memory and ordinarily would be readily remembered. In this movie, Elly Conway's real character is Rachel Kyle, an agent in a secret organization. She is described as

having a brave and aggressive personality. However, due to an accident that causes her to be hospitalized and affects her mental health, and triggers abnormal behavior, she suffers a condition of loss of ability to remember past information or certain events in her life.

There are three components that make up a person's personality: id, ego, and superego (Freud, 1923). It is the interaction and conflict between these three components that create a person's personality. The ego is a personal system that acts as an individual's guide to the objective world of reality and performs its functions based on the principle of reality. The ego is an implemented personality, that is, it is in contact with the outside world. The superego is a personality system that contains values or rules that are evaluative (concerning good and bad). Such theory concerning id, ego, and superego is often referred to as Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory.

Psychoanalytic theory comes from the field psychology, as a science that studies human behavior and mentality. Psychology comes from the Greek words psyche, which means soul, and logos, which means science. Therefore, psychology is a field of science that investigates human behavior (Atkinson cited in Minderop, 2010). In literary works themselves, especially films, there are depictions of characters or actors who have their own character and behavior, so literary work can be approached with a psychological approach to literature.

A number of literature studies have used Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory to analyze characters with dissociative disorders. For example, using the psychoanalytic approach, Ramadhan (2022) examined the multiple personality

disorder of the main characters in film *Split*. Furthermore, Fitriani (2019) used Freud's psychoanalysis theory to analyze the of psychological aspects of the main character in the movie "*Joker*". Meanwhile, Ingrida (2018) analyzes of Harumi Hagio, the main character of the film *Roomate* directed by Sutradara Takeshi Furusawa. Although various previous studies have used Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis theory, to this date there are not many studies, if any, that use Freud's psychoanalytic theory to examine DA. As previously mentioned, the character analyzed in the film *Argylle* is Elly Conway who suffers from DA. Therefore, to address the gap in research, the researcher analyzed the development of Elly Conway's character with regard to her dissociative amnesia in the film *Argylle* using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory.

The current study contributes to the expanding research on the use of psychoanalytic theory to analyze character development in films, especially those whose characters suffer from personality disorders.

## **I.2 Problems of the Study**

Based on the background of the study, the research problems are formulated in the form of the following questions:

1. How is dissociative amnesia portrayed through Elly Conway's character?
2. How do the dynamics among id, ego, and superego develop in Elly Conway's character?

## **I.3 Objectives of the Study**

Based on these research problems, the objectives of this study are:

1. To describe how dissociative amnesia are portrayed through Elly Conway's character.
2. To describe how do the dynamics among id, ego, and superego develop in Elly Conway's character.

#### **I.4 Significances of the Study**

Through the results of this study, researcher hope to contribute theoretical usefulness to the development of literary analysis, especially in analyzing the development of personality in characters suffering from dissociative amnesia (DA). The study can also provide a foundation for further research on various psychological phenomena and problems.

#### **I.5 Limitation of the Study**

From the research problems that have been determined, this study is only limited to in-depth research on the personality characters of characters who suffer from dissociative amnesia (DA) in Elly Conway's character in the film *Argylle*.