

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This chapter presents the method of the research. It contains the research questions, the research subject and context, research procedures, the data collection procedures, the data analysis, and the data presentation.

#### **3.1 Research Questions**

The research is conducted to answer the following questions:

1. How does the main character represent freedom as evidenced in the novel?
2. What conflicts are experienced by the main character as evidenced in the novel?
3. How does the main character deal with the conflicts he experienced as evidenced in the novel?

#### **3.2 Research Subject and Context**

The subject of the research is a novel entitled *Into the Wild* written by Jon Krakauer. This novel became a New York Times bestseller list and published in New York by Villard Books in 1996. This novel consists of 18 chapters and 205 pages.

The main issue investigated in this research is the representation of freedom and conflicts of the main character. The research analyzes how the main

character named Christopher McCandless represents freedom and the conflicts he experiences in his quest for freedom and how he deals with the conflicts.

### **3.3 Research Method**

This research employs qualitative method and textual analysis. This research investigates and interprets the phenomena in the form of how main character represents freedom and the conflicts he experiences in the novel *Into the Wild* by analyzing the words, phrases, and sentences that appear in the novel. Ego defense mechanisms as proposed by Anna Freud (1936) has been used to analyze the phenomena.

### **3.4 Data Collection**

The data for the research are in the form of words, phrases, and sentences that are purposively selected and directed to answer the research questions. The data used are collected by reading the novel carefully in order to understand the text. Next, taking notes of the words, phrases, and sentences that serve as textual evidence of how the main character represents freedom in his quest of freedom, the conflicts he experiences in the novel and how the main character deals with the conflicts.

### 3.5 Data Analysis

The classified data are then analyzed using the framework of ego defense mechanisms theory proposed by Anna Freud (1936) and representation as supporting theory. In conducting the research the following steps have been taken.

1. Reading the novel *Into the Wild* chapter by chapter thoroughly and carefully.
2. Classifying all the textual evidences into how the main character represents freedom, the conflicts he experiences in the novel, and how the main character deals with the conflicts.
3. Analyzing and interpreting the data presentation using the framework of ego defense mechanisms theory and representation theory to answer the research questions.
4. Drawing the conclusion and making suggestion.

### 3.6 Data Presentation

The analyzed data are then presented in tables such as the following:

**Table 1: How the main character represents freedom.**

No.	Chapter and Page	Freedom as represented by the Main Character	Textual Evidence	Context
1.	Chapter 1, page 6.	Disobeying the rules.	Gallien asked whether he had a hunting license. "Hell no," Alex scoffed. "How I feed myself is none of the	Gallien asked Alex whether he had a hunting license, but Alex did not have it and he

			government's business. Fuck their stupid rules.”	thought that he license was not important. Gallien is one of Alex's friends.
2.	Chapter 4, page 32.	Travelling anywhere he wants.	<p>On October 28, he caught a ride with a long-haul trucker into Needles, California. “Overjoyed upon reaching the Colorado River,” McCandless wrote in his journal. Then he left the highway and started walking south through the desert, following the river-bank. Twelve miles on foot brought him to Topock, Arizona, a dusty way station along Interstate 40 where the freeway intersects the California border. While he was in town, he noticed a secondhand aluminum canoe for sale and on an impulse decided to buy it and paddle it down the Colorado River to the Gulf</p>	Alex would go to Alaska based on his own track. He could go anywhere he wants until he was ready to live in Alaskan wilderness. He was also facing every obstacle he met during his journey.

			of California, nearly four hundred miles to the south, across the border with Mexico.	
3.	Chapter 11, page 113.	Helping poor people.	On weekends, when his high school pals were attending “keggers” and trying to sneak into Georgetown bars, McCandless would wander the seedier quarters of Washington, chatting with prostitutes and homeless people, buying them meals, earnestly suggesting ways they might improve their lives. “Chris didn’t understand how people could possibly be allowed to go hungry, especially in this country,” says Billie. “He would rave about that kind of thing for hours.”	Alex gave food to the vagrant in quarters of Washington and chatted with them about their life in the condition like that.

**Table 2: Conflicts the main character is experienced and how he deals with the conflicts**

No	Chapter and Page	Conflicts he experiences	Ways of dealing with the Conflicts	Textual Evidence	Context
1.	Chapter 7, page 65.	Disappointment with his parents.	Going away from parents.	<p>Shortly before he disappeared, Chris complained to Carine that their parents' behavior was "so irrational, so oppressive, disrespectful and insulting that I finally passed my breaking point." He went on: <i>Since they won't ever take me seriously, for a few months after graduation I'm going to let them think they are right, I'm going to let them think that I'm "coming around to see their side of things" and that our relationship is stabilizing. And then,</i></p>	Alex complained to Carine, his sister, about his parents who bought him a new car, while he loved his old car. He thought that his parents could control his life, so he left home to show that nobody could control him.

				<p><i>once the time is right, with one abrupt, swift action I'm going to completely knock them out of my life. I'm going to divorce them as my parents once and for all and never speak to either of those idiots again as long as I live. I'll be through with them once and for all, forever.</i></p>	
2.	Chapter 4, page 37.	Inconvenience of living in society.	Living far away from society.	<p>On February 3, according to his journal, McCandless went to Los Angeles “to get a ID and a job but feels extremely uncomfortable in society now and must return to road immediately.” Six days later, camped at the bottom of the Grand Canyon with Thomas and Karin, a young German couple who</p>	<p>In his journey, Alex needed money so he got to Los Angeles to get his ID and take a job, but he felt uncomfortable with the condition in the city so he came back to his journey and enjoyed his life in his camp near Grand Canyon.</p>



				<p>had given him a ride, he wrote, “Can this be the same Alex that set out in July, 1990 Malnutrition and the road have taken their toll on his body. Over 25 pounds lost. But his spirit is soaring.”</p>	
3.	Chapter 16, page 163.	The difficulties in living in the wilderness.	Adapting his life in wilderness .	<p>Reality, however, was quick to intrude on McCandless’s reverie. He had difficulty killing game, and the daily journal entries during his first week in the bush include “Weakness,” “Snowed in,” and “Disaster.” He saw but did not shoot a grizzly on May 2, shot at but missed some ducks on May 4, and finally killed and ate a spruce grouse on May 5; but he</p>	<p>Alex had difficulties in Alaska. He must survive in the wilderness but he did not have ability to be a good hunter. In his first week, he had no food to eat because he failed to hunt, but as the time goes, he could shoot some animals, so he can eat. He hated to kill the animal but all he could do is killed them. It helped him</p>



				didn't shoot anything else until May 9, when he bagged a single small squirrel, by which point he'd written "4th day famine" in the journal.	survive in wilderness.
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