

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Encarta World English Dictionary defines literature as written works, such as fiction, poetry, drama, and criticism that are recognized as having important or permanent artistic value (*Encarta, 2007*). *Oxford English Dictionary* defines a novel, a form of prose fiction, as a fictitious prose narrative or tale of considerable length in which characters and actions representative of the real life of past or present times are portrayed in a plot of more or less complexity (as cited in Hawthorn, 2001, p. 4). In addition, novel has major elements that can be analyzed, such as plot, characters, point of view, and setting.

Many researchers have conducted studies on analyzing characters in novels. It can be analyzed from its types (round and flat characters), representation (explanatory and dramatic), and also its psychology. A reader can act like a psychiatrist in the real world who examines and cures patients' psychological state and illness.

As stated by Klarer (1999, p. 92), psychological approach can be used to analyze characters psychologically, as if they were real people. In other words, analyzing characters in the novel can be the same as analyzing people in the real world. By analyzing characters in novel, a reader is able to observe characters' psyche. Psyche is someone's mind, or their basic

nature, which controls their attitudes and behavior (*Longman, 2001*).
Sigmund Freud had proposed three components of human psyche: the id,
the ego, and the superego (*Horney, 1939, p. 17*).

For a long time, some authors have been exposing psychology in



suicide. According to Freud, human psyche is divided into three components—the id, the ego, and the superego (Horney, 1939, p. 17). Psychological state is the mental or emotional condition that someone is in at a particular time, which is connected with the way that one's mind works and the way that this affects one's behavior (Longman, 2001).

1.2 Statement of Problem

This research analyzes the main character's psyche in order to find out how it influences her psychological state by formulating the following research questions:

- a) How does the main character's psyche—based on the Freud's id, ego, and superego—influence her psychological state before she entered Villette Mental Hospital?
- b) How does the main character's psyche—based on the Freud's id, ego, and superego—influence her psychological state when she was in Villette Mental Hospital?

1.3 Aims of Study

Based on the research questions formulated above, the aims of the study are as follows:

- a) To examine how the main character's psyche influences her psychological state before she entered Villette Mental Hospital
- b) To examine how the main character's psyche influences her

psychological state when she was in Villette Mental Hospital

1.4 Research Method

The writer uses qualitative method in this research. Qualitative research attempts to critically investigate events or phenomena (Alwasilah, 2006, p. 91). Denzin and Lincoln state that qualitative research is a research that uses naturalistic setting in order to interpret phenomena that happen by doing some methods, such as interview, observation and document analysis (as cited in Moleong, 2007, p. 5). Qualitative research is conducted to understand the phenomena experienced by research subject, such as behavior, perception, motivation, action, and so on, holistically in descriptive way—in the form of words and language—in a particular naturalistic context using several naturalistic methods (Moleong, 2007, p. 6).

This research is conducted to find out how the main character's psyche in Coelho's *Veronika Decides to Die* influences her psychological state before she entered Villette Mental Hospital and when she was in the hospital. The novel tells about a young woman named Veronika who entered a mental hospital because she tried to commit suicide. In line with the definitions of qualitative method explained above, the writer tries to accurately describe and interpret the meanings of phenomena taking place in the social context of the novel. In conclusion, qualitative method is suitable for this research.

In this research, the writer uses the method of document analysis. It means that the writer collects and analyzes the content of text that is usually in the form of words, phrases, sentences, paragraphs, pictures, symbols, or ideas (“Qualitative Social Science Research Methodology,” n.d.).

Analyzing the data begins with close reading. According to McClenner (2001), close reading skill is essential for interpreting literature. It means that one has to deeply understand and accurately interpret the text, primarily on the words themselves. It also involves a thought process that shifts from small details to larger issues.

Moreover, the writer uses descriptive analysis in analyzing data. As explained by Almedom, Blumenthal, and Manderson (1997), descriptive analysis includes reviewing the information, identifying links, patterns, and common themes, and arranging the facts in order. Those data are presented as they are, without any additional comments on their significance.

Initially, the writer reads the novel several times and makes notes of the facts and details related to the events experienced by the main character. After that, those data are categorized into two groups: the main character’s psyche before she entered Villet Mental Hospital and when she was in the hospital. The next step is interpreting the data based on the Freud’s three components of human psyche—the id, the ego, and the superego.