CHAPTER II

LITERARY REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Framework

This second chapter consists of the theory explanation that used to analyze the play, Medea by Euripides. The study focuses on the main character Medea. The researcher explains the connection of literature and psychology, and theory of psychology. In addition, the researcher also use the theory of obsession to describe the play.

2.1.1 Literature and Psychology

Literature and psychology are connected. Literatures contain the characters that behave psychologically whiles psychology influence the author to create the character.

Tim Gillespie stated in his book that writers use psychological insights to inform their art, and psychology used in literature to research into character in author’s literary (50). It can be known the expressed of psychology from writers in a work. Psychology used to analyze the author’s literary.
Wellek stated that psychology of literature is the psychological study of the writer to create the character, as type and as individual, or the study of the creative process (75). Psychology of literature also study of the psychological types that used of writers in their work. It can be effects on the reader of literature (75).

Based on authors above, that literature and psychology have relationship. Writer used the psychology to create the character, as his creative process to his work. Psychology in literature not only to create the character but also to analyze the literary work of writer. So the reader can known the psychology in writer literary work.

2.1.2 Psychoanalysis

In this theory the researcher used the Sigmund Freud theory of psychoanalysis. Psychoanalysis is study of human mind and behavior, and emphasize of the unconscious.

Sigmund Freud stated that psychology is now defined as the scientific study of behavior and mental processes (12). Psychology studied about all of human mind (internal) and behavior (external). Internal activities, such as thinking, dreaming, remembering, and other mental events and the external activities are eating, hanging out, sleeping, and talking (qtd. Coon and Mitterer p.12).
Sigmund Freud also stated that the theory of psychoanalysis proposes that problems arise from unconscious desires and unresolved childhood conflicts (184). It rests on the hotly contested conflict, and the unconscious. It rests on the conflict and the unconscious (qtd. Heller 203).

Sigmund Freud stated that psychoanalysis is the theory of personality that emphasizes unconscious forces and internal conflict in its explanation of behavior (477). The unconscious level includes everything we are aware of at a given moment, including thoughts, perception, feelings, and memories (qtd. Coon).

Sigmund Freud stated psychoanalysis is the theory of human personality, it is include of human mind and behavior (26). Human mind is divided into three parts there are id, ego, and superego (36). The human mind can influence their behavior (qtd. Feist).

Based on Sigmund Freud above, that psychology is now defined as the scientific of behavior and mental processes, the theory of psychoanalysis is to analyze the behavior or mental process of human. Sigmund Freud stated that human mind is divided into three parts there are id, ego, and superego.

First of all, as the id Sigmund Freud stated that id as of instinctive biological drives present in every individual at birth, so that personality of a newborn baby (475). In Freud’s terms, an instinct is the psychological expression of a biologically based physical need, such as food, sex, elimination of waste, or any other bodily requirement. To satisfy a need that has been aroused, human beings develop (wishes)
that motivate and direct behavior. The instincts provide the psychic energy that powers the entire personality (qtd. Coon).

Sigmund Freud stated at the core of personality and completely unconscious is the psychical region called the id (36). The id has no contact with reality, yet it strives constantly to reduce tension by satisfying basic desires. Because its sole function is to seek pleasure. A newborn infant is the personification of an id unencumbered by restrictions of ego and superego. The infant seeks gratification of needs without regard for what is possible (that is, demands of the ego) or what is proper (that is, restraints of the superego) (36). Besides being unrealistic and pleasure seeking, the id is illogical and can simultaneously entertain incompatible ideas (37). For example, a woman may show conscious love for her mother while unconsciously wishing to destroy her (qtd. Feist).

Sigmund Freud stated that id is the pleasure principle and demands immediate gratification (90). Id is also as a primitive instinctual urges, the baby is born and governed by primary process thinking irrational, timeless, immoral instinct that driven with thought (qtd. Heller).

Besides on Sigmund Freud explanation above, id as instinctive biological drives present in every individual at birth. The id has no contact with reality, yet it strives constantly to reduce tension by satisfying basic desires. Id is also as a primitive instinctual urges, the baby is born and governed by primary process thinking irrational, timeless, immoral instinct that driven with thought.
The second, as the ego Sigmund Freud stated that ego is sometimes described as the “executive,” because it directs energies supplied by the id (p.475). The id can only from mental images of things it desires, the ego wins power to direct behavior by relating the desires of the id to external reality. The id operates on the pleasure principle, the ego, in contrast, is guided by the reality principle. That is, the ego delays action until it is practical or appropriate. The ego is the system of thinking, planning, problem solving, and deciding (475). It is in conscious control of the personality (qtd. Coon).

Sigmund Freud stated that the ego is the only region of the mind in contact with reality (29). It grows out of the id during infancy and becomes a person’s sole source of communication with the external world. It is governed by the reality principle, which it tries to substitute for the pleasure principle of the id. As the sole region of the mind in contact with external world, the ego become decision making executive branch of personality (qtd. Feist 29).

The last, as the superego Sigmund Freud stated that superego is an internalization of parental values and societal standard (475). Superego has two parts, the one part of superego is called conscience, reflects actions for which a person has been punished. A second part of the superego is the ego ideal. The ego ideal reflects behaviors that one's parents approved of or rewarded (qtd. Coon 475).

Sigmund Freud stated the superego has two subsystems, the conscience and the ego-ideal (39). The conscience results from experiences with punishments for improper behavior and tells us (what we should not do), whereas the ego-ideal
develops from experiences with rewards for proper behavior and tells us (what we
should do) (qtd. Fiest).

2.1.3 Theory of obsession

Obession is the one of mind that has of human. The obsession is in the id,
because the id is encouragement of the human to do something. Researcher used the
Sigmund Freud theory and theory of obsession to analyze the main character.

Bell stated that an obsession is irratinal thought (183). In some cases,
however, an obsession becomes so persistent that it markedly interferes with daily
life. That someone’s obsession can affect someone’s life including his or her minds,
behaviors, and attitudes both negatively or positively (230). It depends on the how or
the ways he or she obtains his or her obsession. If he or she does it in the positive
way, their attitudes, behaviors and minds will change into positive ones. However, if
they do in the negative way, their behaviors, attitudes and minds will become
negative. Obsession always dominates people’s ways of thinking and acting. If they
can think and act wisely, their obsession will not destroy them, but if they cannot think
and act wisely, they become the slaves of their obsession.

Atkinson & Hilgard stated that obsession is sometimes influenced by the
emotional interpretation. Moreover, the emotional interpretation appears to be a
complicated function of their experiences and their current life situation. Usually
people when experiencing this feeling tend to think on negative ways rather than the positive ones (342).

Heller stated that obsession means persistent desire, it is come from their emotion (175). Persistence desire means strong wish or wanting very much. It means that when someone has a strong desire, he or she has an obsession his or her goals.

2.2 Related review

In this thesis, the writer finds some related thesis that has researched by students of University Christian Petra about Medea drama and obsession of main character. The thesis researched by Yuliwati Widjaja and Puppy Ayu Listiyah. The title of thesis of Yuliwati Widjaja that written in 2006 is “The Construction of woman as seen “through the central female character in Euripides’ medea: a feminist perspective.” In the play, Medea, According to the traditional experts, Euripides as the play wright, describes the construction of woman as a positive construction of a woman. Moreover, feminist literary critics assume that the construction of women in the classical play only represent a fiction of women constructed by patriarchy. Since this thesis will concern much about how actually a woman is constructed by the playwright in the classical play; therefore the topic of her analysis is the construction of woman as seen through the central female character: a feminist perspective. Furthermore, through this study, I try to find out how the central female character in the play is not depicted as a positive construction
of woman. The purpose of this study is to prove that actually the central female character in the play is not depicted as a positive construction of a woman by using the feminist perspective. She will use the feminist perspective with the concept of patriarchy and construction of women and also the concept of misogyny which will be useful for supporting my analysis. Finally, in my findings, I find that actually in describing the construction of woman, the playwright have a tendency to stuck on the patriarchal stereotypes of women in the society. At the beginning, the playwright shows a positive construction of a woman, but at the end he has other intention behind. Behind the positive construction of a woman, there are hidden patriarchal biases made by the playwright.

The Thesis of Inge Natalia that had written in 1998 has entitled “A Study on the Main Character’s Obsession as Seen in Philip Jeyaretnam’s Raffles Place Ragtime”. The idea that every human being has an obsession to achieve something in his/her life is explored in Philip Jeyaretnam’s novel, Raffles Place Ragtime. This novel talked about the complex issues of Vincent’s obsession. Vincent, the main character in the novel, has an obsession to be a rich man. In order to achieve his obsession, Vincent does everything and sacrifices everything including his feeling and the true love toward the girl that he loves. Because of that she interested in analyzing the factors that make Vincent have an obsession to be a rich man, how he obtains it and the effects of Vincent’s obsession for his life. For this study, she use library research to get the theory and data related to the topic. In the analysis, she apply the literary approach consisting of the theories of characterization and
conflict. She also used the theory of obsession in order to help her analyzing Vincent’s obsession. After analyzing the novel, she also find that the factors that motivate Vincent to have an obsession to be a rich man are economical, social and psychological. Vincent tries to achieve his obsession in the wrong way, and this affects his life. Vincent becomes insecure, and this feeling leads him doing something harmful to his job and his relationship with other girls. However, finally Vincent realizes his mistake, and he hopes to be able to start his new life.

From the above study this thesis is different. Researcher used title “Medea’s Obsession to Revenge Her Husband Jason in Euripides Medea.” Whereas in this thesis, research about the obsession of main character of Medea in drama Medea by Euripides. She has obsession which want revenge to her husband with kill the Chornitian Princess and her children.