

## CHAPTER III

### ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the researcher wants to analyze conflicts undergone by the main character in Gayle Forman's *If I Stay* novel. This analysis will divide into three sections. The first section will discuss about Mia's character in this novel. The second section will discuss about kinds of conflict and also the causes of the conflict undergone by Mia as the main character. Two sections above will analyze use New Criticism theory which focused on the conflict. Then, the third section will discuss about Mia's self-defense mechanism settle her psychological conflict. This analysis uses Defense mechanism of Psychological approach by Sigmund Freud.

To make this analysis easier, firstly the researcher wants to describe the character of Mia as the main character in *If I Stay novel*. The data are in the form of paragraph, sentence, or dialog. The researcher analyzes the character of Mia based on the direct or indirect quotation from the utterances of the narrator or from the conversation in the story.

#### **3.1 Mia's Personality**

In this analysis the researcher chooses one of the main character in the novel to be analyzed. One of the main character was chosen is Mia. The researcher prefers to discuss about Mia's character because Mia is one of the dominant character in this novel. She is the main focus of the conflict in the story.

Physically, Mia in this story is characterized as a girl who has brown hair and dark eyes. It can be proved in the following quotations.

Dad sometimes joked that the hospital where I was born must have accidentally swapped babies because I look nothing like the rest of my family. They are all blond and fair and I'm like their negative image, brown hair and dark eyes (Forman 7).

The statements above tell that physically Mia has a brown hair and dark eyes. It is different with her parent who have blond hair and fair. It often becomes a joke that happen swapped babies when she was born in a hospital.

In addition, in this story Mia is also characterized as a young girl from Oregon.

... As I'd shuffled out, that same judge had told me that it had been a long time since the school had "seen an Oregon country girl." Professor Christie had taken that to mean a guaranteed acceptance. I wasn't so sure that was true. And I wasn't 100 percent sure that I wanted it to be true... (Forman 2)

... Teddy having just turned eight and me being seventeen means that we are long past giving off that sour-milk smell that makes adults melt. (Forman 3)

From the quotation above, the researcher argues that physically, Mia is a young girl from Oregon. She called as an Oregon country girl because she and her family lived in Oregon. She is seventeen years old. She is a students of secondary school in Oregon. She is not stylish woman. She has a simple way on style.

I did a slinky walk as best as I could in the heels. I'd expected Adam to go crazy when he saw me, his jeans-and-sweaters girlfriend all glammed out. But he smiled his usual greeting, chuckling a bit. "Nice costume," was all he said. (Forman 30)







She said to her father that she cannot do it. She cannot go to the stage and plays cello as well as he need. She feels afraid until she cried. Actually her father has got a recital present for her. It is for give support to Mia in her first recital of playing cello. But, Mia doesn't care about that because she panics and afraid.

“Give it to someone else. I can't go out there. I'm not like you or Mom or even Teddy.” Teddy was just six months old at that point, but it was already clear that he had more personality, more verve, than I ever would. And of course, he was blond and blue-eyed. Even if he weren't, he'd been born in a birthing center, not a hospital, so there was no chance of an accidental baby swapping (Forman 8).

Mia said that she cannot go to the stage. She asks to her father to give the present to the other people. She feels that she cannot be a star. She is not like her Mom, her Dad, and also Teddy. Teddy has a good ability, not like her. She cannot do anything. She cannot like Teddy who was six months but already clear that he had more personality.

The other statements which shows that Mia has a timid personality is when Mia will go to date with Adam.

I changed my clothes about six times. Teddy, a kindergartner back then, sat in my bedroom, pulling the Calvin and Hobbes books down from the shelves and pretending to read them. He cracked himself up, though I wasn't sure whether it was Calvin's high junks or my own making him so goofy (Forman 11).

Before go to date with Adam, she confuses to wear the clothes until she changed about six times. Teddy who knows her sister, he cracked himself up. It shows that she feels unconfident with herself. She unconfident with her style in every day. She unconfident to be herself. So, she confuses to wear the clothes in order to look beautiful.



Therefore, Mia feels that she betrayed to that book because of Kim, then make she hated Kim even more.

This conflict related with Mia's personality. Mia has closed personality. She doesn't want to talk to the other person about her mind and herself in her life. She doesn't want the other people know about herself. In this case, her closed personality can make a conflict with the other people especially Kim as her best friend. She doesn't know that Mia loves that book and had talked to Dad, because Mia never talk to her about this. So, she thinks that it is fine if she uses the book to discuss.

“Fine. We'll do your idea, then,” Kim said, and when we got a B minus, she seemed to gloat about our mediocre grade.

After that, we just didn't talk. That didn't stop teachers from pairing us together or everyone in the school from assuming that we were friends. The more that happened, the more we resented it—and each other. The more the world shoved us together, the more we shoved back—and against each other. We tried to pretend the other didn't exist even though the existence of our nemeses kept us both occupied for hours. (Forman 22)

Since the accident above they are not talking to each other although their teacher and their friends pair them in any class activity. But, it's make them more resent and against each other. Actually they don't know why they hate each other. But then, they know the reason why they hate each other. The reason why Mia hate to Kim because she thinks that Kim was a Goody Two-shoes. She was annoying. She was a show-off. Moreover, Mia know that Kim said “Bitch” to her.

I felt compelled to give myself reasons why I hated Kim: She was a Goody Two-shoes. She was annoying. She was a show-off. Later, I found out that she did the same thing about me, though her major complaint was that she thought I was a bitch. And one day, she even wrote it to me. In English class, someone flung a folded-up square of notebook paper onto the floor



next to my right foot. I picked it up and opened it. It read, *Bitch!* (Forman 22)

Mia hate to Kim even more when she knows that Kim said a dirty word to her. No one ever said to her like that. But their conflict is not in a long lasting. The maturity makes them understand that their conflict is a mistake and they become a best friend again. They forgive to each other. This accident makes their friendship closer and never separated ever after.

The second is a conflict between Mia and her boyfriend, Adam. Conflict between Mia and Adam occur when Adam graduated from high school, moved out of his parents' place and into the House of Rock, and started heating up with Shooting Star.

But things had changed when Adam moved into the House of Rock and started college, though not for the reasons I'd thought they would. At the beginning of the fall, just as Adam was getting used to college life, things suddenly started heating up with Shooting Star. The band was offered a record deal with a medium-size label based in Seattle and now were busy in the studio recording. They were also playing more shows, to larger and larger crowds, almost every weekend. Things were so hectic that Adam had dropped half his course load and was going to college part-time, and if things kept up at this rate, he was thinking of dropping out altogether. "There are no second chances," he told me. (Forman 65)

The relationship between Mia and Adam changed after Adam and her music group, Shooting Star become a popular band. Shooting Star's schedule is very dense until he thinks that he must be dropping out from his university, because he cannot divide the time to going to college and to his show. Every weekend he has a show in different place. This condition makes the relationship between Adam and Mia different with the last. They cannot spend time together, even they cannot meet up and watch the music together.

Firstly, Mia doesn't mind to this condition but she doesn't know why suddenly this condition is different. She becomes mind after her prospect to Julliard.

I was genuinely excited for him. I knew that Shooting Star was something special, more than just a college-town band. I hadn't minded Adam's increasing absences, especially since he made it so clear how much *he* minded them. But somehow, the prospect of Juilliard made things different somehow it made me mind. Which didn't make any sense at all because if anything, it should have leveled the field. Now I had something exciting happening, too. (Forman 65)

The prospect of Mia in Julliard make the condition more serious. They will very hard to meet and it will make a problem in their relationship. Because Mia will very busy as an undergraduate student in Julliard and Adam with her business in Shooting Star, so they hard to communicate each other. A relationship will be fine if there is good communication both of them. But, if there is not good communication it will make a problem that make the relationship will be broke.

In the beginning of their relationship, music unites them. But know, music also dissociates them. Because of Adam's schedule in Shooting Star is over load and Mia's study of music in Julliard make a long distance between them.

“And come on, music brought you two together. That's what your father and I always thought. You were both in love with music and then you fell in love with each other. It was a little like that for your dad and me. I didn't play but I listened. Luckily, I was a little older when we met.” I'd never told Mom about what Adam had said that night after the Yo-Yo Ma concert, when I'd asked him *Why me?* How the music was totally a part of it. “Yeah, but now I feel like it's music that's going to pull us apart.” (Forman 67)

But their story almost same with Mia's parent who their love is also because of the music. Her parent's love is come from their hobby of playing





*Stop. Please stop. Please wake up!* I scream into the chilly air. It's cold. My breath should smoke. It doesn't. I stare down at my wrist, the one that looks fine, untouched by blood and gore, and I pinch as hard as I can. I don't feel a thing (Forman 5).

From the statement above the researcher know that Mia cannot accept this reality, that she is coma but her soul is out of her body. She thinks that it's just a dream, it is not real. She doesn't believe that her mom and her father died. They just go on a drive to go to Henry and Willow's house. She doesn't believe that this accident happened. She still confused about her condition. She thinks that she died, but if she died, why she can stand here and watch everything normally? Why nothing injuries in her body? Many things that make her confused about what happened with her.

Mia wants to meet someone to helps her to out from this condition. She wants to ask to the other people how she can back to her body? Is she can back to her body by herself or she must wait the doctor wake her up? But, she cannot find someone who has the same condition with her. No one else who out of the body like her. She also cannot communicate with other people in surrounding. She can see the people and everything happen in surroundings but the people cannot see her, and also cannot communicate with her. It can be proved in the following statements.

There are rows of operating rooms, all full of sleeping people. If the patients inside these rooms are like me, why then can't I see the people outside the people? Is everyone else loitering about like I seem to be? I'd really like to meet someone in my condition. I have some questions, like, what is this state I'm in exactly and how do I get out of it? How do I get back to my body? Do I have to wait for the doctors to wake me up? But there's no one else like me around. Maybe the rest of them figured out how to get to Hawaii (Forman 14).

Now, Mia cannot do anything. She is only a soul which out of her body. Nothing that she can do besides stay and watch everything happens. She doesn't know how the way to bring her back to the body.

Sometimes, Gran and Gramps come in to the room to know Mia's condition. At that time, a nurse come and said to Gran and Gramps that actually who are can determine her recovery is from herself only. Not because of the doctors or because of medical devices.

She's not my nurse but she comes up to Gran and Gramps just the same. "Don't you doubt for a second that she can hear you," she tells them. "She's aware of everything that's going on." She stands there with her hands on her hips. I can almost picture her snapping gum. Gran and Gramps stare at her, lapping up what she's telling them. "You might think that the doctors or nurses or all this is running the show," she says, gesturing to the wall of medical equipment. "Nuh-uh. *She's* running the show. Maybe she's just biding her time. So you talk to her. You tell her to take all the time she needs, but to come on back. You're waiting for her." (Forman 25)

The nurse said to Gran and Gramps to talk to her in order to give support to Mia. Now, she need support from the family or from beloved people that she has. In this time, Mia get choices in her life. She must choose to bring her soul back to her body and continue her life, or she choose to die. It is a difficult choice but she must choose one. She very confuses to choose one of those choices. Actually, she knows that it is her life and she must determine this problem too. No one who can resolve her problem or choose a choice for her. But, many things are become the causes that make her confused to make a decision.

The first cause is come from her family. She cannot make a decision to live or die because of her beloved family. Her beloved family: Mom, Dad, and Teddy, they are not in here. She thinks that she cannot live without them.



stay live. They allow if she wants to stop fighting and decide to go to die. They know that it is not easy for her, to struggle in her life. Gran and Gramps don't want Mia suffer from her comma in a long time. If she wants to stay, so bring her soul back soon. While if she doesn't want to stay and go to die, go away as soon as possible.

Then the second cause is because of love. Not only Gran and Gramps who love her and wants her to stay but also her beloved man, Adam and her best friend, Kim. Mia is very loved Adam and Kim, and in vice versa, Adam and Kim love her too. Adam is a man who become Mia's boyfriend. She very loves him and doesn't want to leave him in any condition. It is the one of the reason why Mia doesn't want to die.

*I need Adam. I take a final look for him and Kim but they're not here, so I head back upstairs to the ICU (Forman 38).*

The quotations above show that Mia love Adam so much. She need him in any condition, moreover in this condition. In this comma, she still remembers about Adam. Its indicate that Adam is one of the most important people in her life. Therefore, his presence beside her is very important. She need him to give support so, Mia has a spirit to struggle and continue her life. Because she thinks that if Adam here and stay with her, she doesn't feel lonely. She has a friend to accompany her to face any problem in her life.

It also seems on the statements when Kim ask to Mia about her condition, as follows.

Kim settles into the chair next to my bed. "How are you doing?" she asks. I'm not sure. I'm exhausted, but at the same time Adam's visit has left me . . . I don't know what. Agitated. Anxious. Awake, definitely awake.





Up to now, Kim always stay to accompany her. She always gives support to Mia in order to make Mia stay to live. She doesn't want to lost Mia. She doesn't want to lost her beloved best friend.

I know that Kim's telling me this to try to keep me alive. She probably doesn't realize that in a weird way, her remark frees me, just like Gramps's permission did. I know it will be awful for Kim when I die, but I also think about what she said, about not being scared, about jail being easy compared to losing me. And that's how I know that Kim will be okay. Losing me will hurt; it will be the kind of pain that won't feel real at first, and when it does, it will take her breath away. And the rest of her senior year will probably suck, what with her getting all that cloying your-best-friend's-dead sympathy that will drive her so crazy, and also because really, we are each other's only close friend at school. But she'll deal. She'll move on. She'll leave Oregon. She'll go to college. She'll make new friends. She'll fall in love. She'll become a photographer, the kind who never has to go on a helicopter. And I bet she'll be a stronger person because of what she's lost today. I have a feeling that once you live through something like this, you become a little bit invincible (Forman 69).

Kim try to talk with Mia, tells some story about their life, about something happen when she is comma. Although, actually she knows all of the story that tells by Kim, but she cannot talk to her. She tells this in order to try to make keep her alive. Kim love her so much, more than the other. She doesn't want Mia die. She wants to stay with her every day and everywhere and face their problem together. It will be awful for Kim if Mia die. She will very sad and it's very bad for her. But, she tries to strong by said to Mia that she will be fine if she decides to go to die. It is doing by Kim because she doesn't want Mia feel sad. She wants Mia to keep spirit in face her problem now.

So that's why Mia confused to decide to bring her soul back to her body and stay alive, or to go to die. In one sides, she cannot live without her beloved family, and the other sides she still has many beloved people who love her and











I decide to try a simpler maneuver. I walk into the wall, imagining that I'll float through it and come out the other side. Except that what happens when I walk into the wall is that I hit a wall (Forman 14).

Mia cheer herself up by doing something that she ever seen in a film. She tries to snap her finger, click her heels, and she still here. She tries to do that in order to make her move to the other place. But she cannot. The she makes the other experiments. She tries to walk into the wall in order to float through it and make her move in other place. But it cannot happen. She hit a wall. She does this experiment is to overcome her saturation in waiting her operation.

Five forms of defense mechanism that did by Mia above are to cope her anxiety because of her conflict that she confuses to choose to stay alive or go to die. In her coma, she doesn't know what will to do. Actually, Mia is a timid girl. She often feels nervous, fear, anxious, and unconfident. Therefore, Mia did the defense mechanism above because she feels anxious and unconfident to make a decision. She feels that, because she doesn't believe that she can live in the world again without her beloved family.