

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

The word “literature” is derived from the Latin word *litteraturae* means “writings”. Literature is the fictional and imaginative writings including philosophy, history and even scientific works that are especially distinguished in form, expression and emotional power addressed to a general audience. The kinds of literature are poetry, prose, prose fiction and drama (Abrams 177).

According to Eagleton (1996), he says literature as 'imaginative' writing in the sense of fiction and literature includes much factual writing, it also excludes quite a lot of fiction. And fiction is the term and most commonly refers to the narrative forms of literature.

Another opinion of literature is from Freud (1923), he says that Literature and the other arts, like dreams and neurotic symptoms, consist of the imagined, or fantasied, fulfillment of wishes that are either denied by reality or are prohibited by the social standards of morality and propriety.

Fiction is part of literary works derived from imagination. In other words, fiction is not based strictly on history or fact. According to Kennedy (2007), he is drawing literary fiction from the Latin *fictio*, "a shaping, a counterfeiting" is a

anthologies. Ahern also created and produced the ABC comedy *Samantha Who?* starring Christina Applegate. Ahern is the daughter of the former Taoiseach of Ireland, Bertie Ahern. Her older sister, Georgina Ahern, is married to Nicky Byrne of Irish pop group Westlife. In 2000, Cecelia Ahern was part of the Irish pop group Shimma, who finished third in the Irish national final for the Eurovision Song Contest. Before starting her writing and producing career, she obtained a degree in Journalism and Media Communications from Griffith Colleges Dublin, but withdrew from a Master's degree course to pursue her writing career. On 14 December 2009, it was announced that Cecelia had given birth to her first child with husband David Keoghan, a girl named Robin. One of her spokes women confirmed in March 2012 that she was pregnant with a second child. Cecelia gave birth to her second child a boy named Sonny on 23 July 2012. They currently live in Malahide in North County Dublin (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cecelia_Ahern).

In 2002, when Cecelia Ahern was twenty-one, she wrote her first novel, *PS, I Love You*. Published in 2004, it was the number one bestseller in Ireland (for 19 weeks), the United Kingdom, U.S., Germany and the Netherlands. It was sold in over forty countries. The book was adapted as a motion picture directed by Richard LaGravenese and starring Hilary Swank and Gerard Butler. It was released in the United States on 21 December 2007. Her second book, *Where Rainbows End* (U.S. *Love, Rosie*), also reached number 1 in Ireland and the UK, and won the German CORINE Award in 2005. It was adapted as a motion picture

titled *Love, Rosie* which was released in 2014, directed by Christian Ditter and starring Lily Collins and Sam Claflin. She has contributed to charity books with the royalties from short stories such as *Irish Girls are Back in Town* and *Ladies' Night* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cecelia_Ahern).

By choosing Cecelia Ahern's novel under the title *PS, I Love You* is taken among the other Cecelia Ahern's work because it was the number one bestseller novel in Ireland for 19 weeks. Most of people know about this novel because this novel very romantic but also very tragic and humorist. The language also is very light and make the reader easy to understand this novel.

PS, I Love You tells about Holly and Gerry met through mutual friends while still in junior high school. They became sweethearts as both recognized that they had met their love buddy. Eventually they married. He promised Holly that if he ever left her, he would leave her with a list. Two months later Gerry is dead. After fifteen plus years from they met, thirty years old Gerry was diagnosed with a brain tumor. A few months after Gerry's death an almost thirty Holly remains grieving unable to leave her home. Her mom calls to tell her that she has a package addressed to Holly with the word List above her name. A stunned Holly realizes somehow Gerry marshaled his energy to give her ten months of lists to help regain her equilibrium because he loved her so much he wanted her to live. Now Holly begins to follow Gerry's list with one envelope opened per month as he reaches from beyond the grave to help his beloved return to the living (<http://allreaders.com/book-review-summry/ps-i-love-you-30371>).

The writer chooses this topic about psychological problems in *Ps. I Love You* because this novel tell about a painful memory that happens to the main character (Holly) because her husband dies after being diagnosed with a brain tumor. Makes her have psychological problems that lead her into depression and anxiety. And now she has to survive and deals with her fate and her painful fact that Gerry is gone.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Based on the background of the study, the statement of the problem are formulated as follows :

1. How is Holly Kennedy's character described in the novel Cecelia Ahern's *Ps. I Love You* ?
2. How does Holly Kennedy's struggle against her sadness in the novel Cecelia Ahern's *Ps. I Love You* ?

1.3 Objective of the study

Based on the statement of the problem, the objectives of the study are formulated as follows :

1. To explain the character of Holly Kennedy's in the novel Cecelia Ahern's *Ps. I Love You*.
2. To explain how Holly Kennedy's struggle her sadness in the novel Cecelia Ahern's *Ps. I Love You*.

1.4 Significance of study

Theoretically, it is hoped that this study can be used a helpful references in order to understand the novel *PS, I Love You* by Cecelia Ahern. Practically, it is hoped that the result from this study will inspire other English Literature students to study more about literature or conduct a literature study to enrich the literature knowledge. And from this novel we know that make a good connection with family and bestfriends is very useful for our personality.

1.5 Scope of limitation

The writer focuses on discussing the types or main character's purpose to use defense mechanism. This study will discussing Holly as the main character in *Ps. I Love You*.

1.6 Method of study

This research is descriptive qualitative one. In descriptive qualitative, the data organized depends on the researcher and how the data was rendered. The sources of this research were from books and online article. The researcher follows the following steps :

1. Reading the novel of *PS, I Love You* by Cecelia Ahern as the primary data in order to comprehend and examine it well.
2. Selecting and collecting data in form of narration and conversation from the short story related to the problem.
3. Analyzing the data collected dealing with the statement of problems.
4. Drawing conclusion based on the result of data analysis.

1.7 Definition of key term

1. **Defense Mechanism** : The qualify as a full-fledged defense, it must do more than merely make people feel better. It must actually ward off unacceptable ideas or feelings that would cause distressing affect a person unconsciously resort to certain mental processes that oppose these idea or feeling and render them less disturbing. (wikipedia.com)
2. **Brain Tumor** : A brain tumor or intracranial neoplasm occurs when abnormal cells form within the brain. All types brain tumors may produce symptoms that vary depending on the part of the brain involved. These problem include headache, seizures, problem with vision, vomiting, and mental changes. (wikipedia.com)