

**ALEXANDER BONAPARTE CUST'S ANXIETY IN
AGATHA CHRISTIE'S *THE ABC MURDERS***

THESIS



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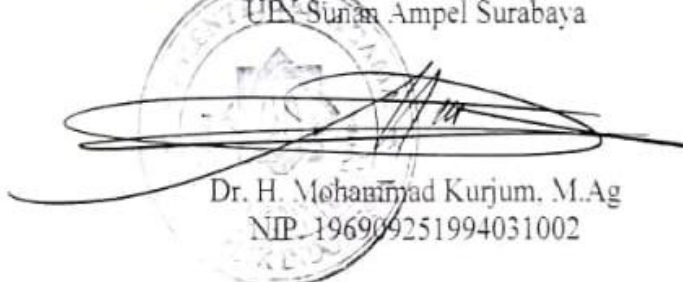
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ABSTRACT

Khalid, M. R (2023). *Alexander Bonaparte Cust's Anxiety in Agatha Christie's "The ABC Murders."* English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN. Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisors: (I) Itsna Syahadatud Dinurriyah, M.A., (2) Ramadhina Ulfa Nuristama, M.A.

This study aims to investigate the anxiety experienced by Alexander Bonaparte Cust in the novel *The ABC Murders* written by Agatha Christie. There are several issues analyzed in this study, (1) How is Alexander Bonaparte Cust's anxiety described in the novel; (2) Why does Alexander Bonaparte Cust experience anxiety; (3) How does Alexander Bonaparte Cust overcome his anxiety.

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach in describing the issue being studied. This study uses the descriptive method to analyze how is Alexander Bonaparte Cust described as a person who experienced anxiety. After that, the analysis continues to find out the causes of anxiety experienced by Alexander Bonaparte Cust. Last, examine the way Alexander Bonaparte Cust deals with his anxiety.

The results of this study reveal that the novel describes Alexander Bonaparte's cust character experiencing anxiety, which is indicated by several physical symptoms such as a trembling body, an unenthusiastic body, and dazed walking. In addition, some of his behavior, such as excessive fear, agitation, insecurities, and caution, also reflects his anxiety. His anxiety is caused by several things, namely the news about the serial killer and people's judgment. Moreover, Alexander Bonaparte Cust has two ways to overcome his anxiety, firstly, he tries to hold it back, and secondly, when he cannot hold back his anxiety, he tells the whole truth to Hercule Poirot to release the stress he feels.

Keywords: Anxiety, Serial Killer, People's Judgment, The ABC Murders

ABSTRAK

Khalid, M. R. 2023. *Gangguan Kecemasan yang dialami oleh Alexander Bonaparte Cust di Novel Agatha Christie "Pembunuhan ABC"*. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing: (I) Itsna Syahadatud Dinurriyah, M.A., (2) Ramadhina Ulfa Nuristama, M.A.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menyelidiki kecemasan yang dialami oleh Alexander Bonaparte Cust dalam novel "The ABC Murders" yang ditulis oleh Agatha Christie. Ada beberapa analisis masalah dalam penelitian ini, (1) Bagaimana kecemasan yang dialami oleh Alexander Bonaparte Cust digambarkan di dalam novel; (2) Mengapa Alexander Bonaparte Cust mengalami kecemasan; (3) Bagaimana Alexander Bonaparte Cust mengatasi kecemasannya.

Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif dalam menggambarkan masalah yang diteliti. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif yang bertujuan untuk menganalisis penggambaran anxiety yang di alami oleh Alexander Bonaparte Cust. Setelah itu, analisis dilanjutkan untuk mengetahui penyebab kecemasan yang dialami oleh Alexander Bonaparte Cust. Terakhir, mengkaji bagaimana cara Alexander Bonaparte Cust mengatasi kecemasannya.

Hasil dari penelitian ini mengungkapkan bahwa novel tersebut menggambarkan karakter cust Alexander Bonaparte yang mengalami kecemasan yang ditunjukkan dengan beberapa gejala fisik seperti tubuh gemetar, tubuh yang rak bersemangat dan jalan yang linglung. Selain itu, beberapa perilakunya, seperti rasa takut yang berlebihan, agitasi, rasa tidak aman, dan kehati-hatian juga mencerminkan kecemasannya. Kecemasannya disebabkan oleh beberapa hal, yaitu pemberitaan tentang pembunuh berantai dan penilaian masyarakat. Apalagi, Alexander Bonaparte Cust memiliki dua cara untuk mengatasi kecemasannya, pertama dia mencoba menahannya, dan kedua ketika dia tidak bisa menahan kecemasannya, dia mengatakan yang sebenarnya kepada Hercule Poirot untuk melepaskan stres yang dia rasakan.

Kata Kunci: Gangguan Kecemasan, Pembunuhan Berantai, Penilaian Orang Lain, Pembunuhan ABC

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Inside Cover Page	i
Inside Tittle Page	i
Approval Sheet	ii
Examiners' Sheet	iii
Declaration	iv
Acknowledgements	v
Abstract	vii
Abstrak	viii
Table of Contents	ix

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study	1
1.2 Problems of the Study	6
1.3 Objectives of the Study	6
1.4 Significance of the Study	6
1.5 Scope and Delimitations	7
1.6 Definition of key terms	7

CHAPTER II THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 New Criticism	8
2.1.1 Character	9
2.1.2 Characterization	10
2.2 Psychoanalysis	11
2.2.1 The Concept of Anxiety	12

CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHOD14

3.1 Research Design	14
3.1.1 Data Sources	14
3.2 Data Collection Technique	15

3.3 Data Analysis Technique	15
 CHAPTER IV ANALYSIS	 17
4.1 Alexander Bonaparte Cust's Anxiety Described in the Novel	17
4.1.1 Alexander Bonaparte Cust's Physical Symptoms	17
4.1.2 Alexander Bonaparte Cust's Behavior	23
4.2 The Causes of A.B.Cust Anxiety	43
4.2.1 The News of Serial Killer	43
4.2.2 People's Judgment.....	46
4.3 The Way Alexander Bonaparte Cust Deals with His Anxiety.....	52
 CHAPTER V CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS	 55
5.1 Conclusions.....	55
5.2 Suggestions	56
REFERENCES.....	58

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S U R A B A Y A

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Literature is a reflection or portrait of real-life depicted through writing. Hudson (1944) states that the literature is a record of the results of experiences that humans have seen and experienced (p. 10). Furthermore, Aras (2015) says that literature is created from the experiences of individual realities, which consist of emotions and feelings (p. 251). Based on those definitions, literature and human life are interrelated because human life is reflected in literature. Due to it being reflective of actual human life, literature could interact with other branches of science related to humans, one of which is psychology.

Psychology is the study of the human mind (American Psychology Association), and literature is writing that describes the human mind (Lodge, 2002, p.10); therefore, these two branches are often related. Moreover, Emre (2006) states that literature and psychology are interrelated to study the contradictory relationships between the human conscious and unconscious mind through writing (Yimer, 2019, p.160). It means that literature and psychology are often linked because, with these two branches of science, human behavior could be researched, not only based on real-life situations but also on writing, especially novels.

Literature, which is a record of human experience, relates to psychology; therefore, the novel also describes psychological issues experienced by humans. One of the psychological issues described in the novel is anxiety. This psychological issue is told through the story's plot and depicted through characters who are fictional forms of people in real life (Childs & Fowler, 2006, p. 23). Characters have their unique characterization, which is described through dialogue and narrative. As the story progresses, the characters in the novel would experience conflicts that they must overcome, which could come from external and internal sources. External conflicts come from other people or society, while internal conflicts are when characters experience conflict with themselves or when they experience problems with their psychological condition.

Anxiety is one of the psychological issues most often experienced by some people. Munir & Takov (2022) state that anxiety is one of the most common mental disorders people experience. Anxiety happens when a person thinks about something unpleasant or in an uncomfortable situation, and these discomforts appear in disturbances of mood, behavior, and thoughts (Almokhtar A. et al., 2019, p.580). In short, anxiety is one of the most common psychological problems experienced by people, especially when a person is under stress.

The most common cause of anxiety is the accumulation of stress. Chan (2019) states that anxiety is a normal response from a person when facing pressure, but this would become a problem when the stress caused by the pressure continues to accumulate. The accumulated stress causes the growth of anxiety

disorders or anxiety disorders. When the stress experienced by someone has accumulated, it will interfere with one's thoughts, and most people will probably experience mild anxiety, where the anxiety experienced will be mild and not affect a person's life. However, when stress has accumulated for too long, a person will experience severe anxiety that interferes with life behavior.

Therefore, the researcher is interested in profoundly analyzing the anxiety issue in *The ABC Murders* novel because the author assumes that Agatha Christie, the author of *The ABC Murders*, describes Alexander Bonaparte Cust, the man suspected of being the perpetrator of the serial killer, who experiences anxiety issues in an exciting way where he experiences anxiety due to he feels he has been framing to become a serial killer. Therefore, in this research, the researcher analyzes the psychological problems experienced by Alexander Bonaparte Cust's character in Agatha Christie's *The ABC Murder*, where he suffers from anxiety.

The *ABC Murder* is a novel written by Agatha Christie in 1936. The *ABC Murder* tells about a serial killer that happened where the killer claims to be an ABC. Everything about the murders seems to have been arranged by the killer to correspond to the ABC alphabetical order, both the victim's initials and the first letter of the place name of the crime scene. These things made Alexander Bonaparte Cust's character restless and uneasy. He feels uneasy because the initials mentioned by the killer are the same as his initials, ABC. It does not stop there; apart from having similar initials, Alexander Bonaparte Cust is always at the crime scene when the murder occurred. This made Alexander Bonaparte Cust

even more nervous and afraid that others would be suspicious of him. Alexander Bonaparte Cust feels that he has been framed to become the killer even though he is innocent.

Several previous studies have examined the novel *The ABC Murder* by Agatha Christie. The first study is by Csorba (2021); the research title is "Feminization of Agatha Christie's Character Hercule Poirot through his appearance, personality, age, and cat symbolism." Csorba examines the feminist aspect depicted through Hercule Poirot's character aspects, namely Poirot's appearance, age, and recurring cat symbolism. The study finds that Hercule Poirot is strongly feminized. This is shown in several aspects, such as Hercule Poirot's appearance and personality, age, and the symbolism of a cat, which are always associated with Poirot.

The second is Nofianti et al. (2015), and the title is "A Study on ambition represented by the two characters in Agatha Christie's *The ABC Murders*." They discuss the ambition of two characters in the novel, Hercule Poirot and Franklin Clarke, to find out the causes and the effects of the ambition of the detective and the murderer. This research uses the psychological approach to analyze the novel. The study finds that Hercule Poirot and Franklin Clarke have different ambitions, but the ambitions of the two people are connected and cause conflict.

The third is Althalarik et al. (2020), and the research title is "Deconstruction of the Franklin Clarke complex character in Agatha Christie's *The ABC Murder* Novel as literature teaching material in high school." The

researchers analyzed Franklin Clarke's character using the deconstruction approach and compiled learning material from the results of the deconstruction analysis of Franklin Clarke's character. This research uses the descriptive method and deconstruction theory. The result of the study is that the complexity characteristic of Franklin Clarke is hidden. Also, the results of this study are used by students to understand the application of deconstruction in analyzing literary works.

The last is Nursuciati et al. (2021), and title is "The social life of three victims of the serial killer in the Novel *The ABC Murder* by Agatha Christie." The researcher examines the background of the social life of the three victims of the serial killings in *The ABC, Murder*, and finds out the influence of the backgrounds that the victims have on the serial killings that occur. This study analyzes the issue using a descriptive, qualitative, and sociological approach. The study finds that the background that influenced the murders was the similar occupation of the two victims, Mrs. Alice Ascher and Elizabeth Barnard. Meanwhile, Sir Carmichael Clarke is killed because of his family background and wealth.

Although there have been researchers who researched the novel *The ABC Murder*, the researcher believes this present research is different from several previous studies. Some of these studies focus on analyzing the perpetrator of the serial killers in the novel and the victims. Meanwhile, no researchers have focused on the character of A.B. Cust. This is what makes the difference between the

current research and previous research. Therefore, in this study, the researcher analyzes the issues described in the character of A.B. Cust in the novel. Therefore, in this research, the researcher analyzes how Alexander Bonaparte Cust's anxiety is described in *The ABC Murders* novel. In addition, this study also analyzes the psychological problem experienced by Alexander Bonaparte Cust to reveal the causes of Alexander Bonaparte Cust's anxiety and to examine how Alexander Bonaparte Cust deals with his anxiety.

1.2 Problems of the Study

- A. How is Alexander Bonaparte Cust's anxiety described in *The ABC Murders* Novel?
- B. Why does Alexander Bonaparte Cust experience anxiety in *The ABC Murder* Novel?
- C. How does Alexander Bonaparte Cust overcome his anxiety in *The ABC Murders* Novel?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

- A. To find out how Alexander Bonaparte Cust's anxiety is described in the novel.
- B. To reveal the causes of the anxiety experienced by Alexander Bonaparte Cust.
- C. To find out how ways Alexander Bonaparte Cust deals with his anxiety.

1.4 Significance of the Study

In this study, the researcher expects to contribute theoretically and practically. To contribute theoretically, the researcher hopes the result of the study

will enrich the readers' knowledge related to the concept of anxiety by Sigmund Freud through literary works. Then, to contribute practically, the researcher hopes this study will provide the readers that a wrong judgment that people often do not realize can have an impact on a person's psychological condition which in the case of *The ABC Murders* novel is researcher anxiety. Furthermore, the results of this study can serve a way that can be used to overcome anxiety.

1.5 Scope and Delimitations

The scope of this research is a character of Alexander Bonaparte Cust in Agatha Christie's novel entitled "*The ABC Murder*." This study focuses on analyzing the character of Alexander Bonaparte Cust. This research also investigates the causes of Alexander Bonaparte Cust's anxiety and how A.B. Cust acts in response to his anxiety. In analyzing those focuses, the researcher uses dialogue and narrations describing A. B. Cust's character. Furthermore, the conflict in the novel is also analyzed to find out the causes of anxiety experienced by A B. Cust.

1.6 Definition of key terms

Serial Killer is a murder committed by someone where that person has killed three or more people in a certain period (Jenkins, 2023).

Personality is a person's distinctive characteristics or unique patterns of behavior, feelings, and thoughts that distinguish one individual from another (Kendra, 2023).

Psychological Issue is continuous dysfunction in thought patterns, behavior, and emotions that cause distress in an individual (Brogaard, 2015).



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CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

In this section, the researcher discusses a review of the theory used in analyzing the character of Alexander Bonaparte Cust in the novel *The ABC Murders*. This chapter explains New criticism and the concept of anxiety. Below is a further explanation of the theory used in the study.

2.1 New Criticism

New criticism is a literary approach that, in its analysis, ignores other elements and only focuses on the text itself (Dobie, 2012, p. 34). Similar to Bressler's (2011, p. 53) explanation, new criticism is "a literary approach that provides the readers a formula for the correct interpretation of a text using the text itself." In Addition, Tyson (2006, p. 136) states that in new criticism, the only evidence for interpreting the true meaning of a literary text is the text itself. Furthermore, Selden et al. (2005) state that new criticism is characterized by practice and premise and not focused on other biographical, historical, and intellectual contexts. New criticism only focuses on the text, including its language and organization. Based on some of these terms, it can be concluded that new criticism is a method of analyzing literary works that ignore other contexts outside the literary work itself, such as the author's background and the reader's opinion, and only focuses on analyzing the content of the literary work.

Since new criticism is a literary approach that analyzes literary text based on the text itself, the elements analyzed are symbols, metaphors, images, plots, settings, character and characterization, and plots where these elements are part of a literary work. Therefore, to support the analysis of this study, the researcher uses the New Criticism theory to examine how the anxiety of Alexander Bonaparte Cust is described in the novel and also the causes of A.B. Cust's anxiety in Agatha Christie's *The ABC Murders*.

2.1.1 Character

Character is one of the elements created by the author to become an actor in a story. DiYanni (2002, p. 38) states that a character is a fictional person the author creates to become part of a story in literary work. Even though it is fiction, the characters in literary works can be relevant to people in the real world when the characters in a story are similar to many people in everyday life. Kenney (1966, p. 27) states that characters become relevant if a character has similarities with many people in the real world. According to the definition of character above, even though it is a fictional thing made by the author, the characters who become actors in a story can be one representation of several people in the real world.

The character is the story's core, where the character carries out the storyline of a literary work from beginning to end. Being the actor of the storyline will make the readers experience an attachment to a character in literary work. Bennett & Royle (2004, p. 60) state that the characters in literary work can attract our curiosity and feelings as readers. We may feel love or hate for a character

from a literary work. This will create an attachment between the readers and the characters in the literary work. As the story progresses, the characters share experiences and thoughts in written form. So that this will make the readers understand what the character in the literary work feels and goes through.

There are two types of characters, namely flat characters and round characters. Flat characters are described as having only one particular characterization or trait. The characterization possesses by flat characters often feels monotonous and flat. According to Nurgiyantoro (1998, p. 181), flat characters are usually only described through a few sentences. In comparison, the next character is the round character which is inversely proportional to the flat character. Abrams (cited in Nurgiyantoro, 1998, p. 183) states that rounded characters are more similar to humans in real life when compared to flat characters. This shows that round characters are described as more complex and have more diverse characteristics than flat characters. Round characters are often described as having more diverse characteristics or identities; therefore, it is not enough to describe these characters in just a few sentences.

2.1.2 Characterization

Each character must have a depiction that distinguishes between one character and another. According to the definition by Holman (1986, p. 81), who states that characterization is a description made by the author of a character where the character is made to look like life. It means that characterization is a reflection of human description in real life. Characterization is often described

through the physical and mental characteristics of a character in literary work, where this characterization will affect the storyline of a story.

Two techniques in determining a character's characterization are direct and indirect characterization. According to Bacon (2017, p.1), direct characterization occurs when the author describes or explains information related to a character directly to the readers. It means that the readers can directly understand the information about a character which is often explained in the narrative. Meanwhile, indirect characterization is when the author provides information about a character through their behavior and how they think (Bacon, 2017, p.1). It means that readers must draw their conclusions about the characteristics of a character through dialogue or when they respond to a conflict.

2.2 Psychoanalysis

Psychoanalysis theory is a theory of literary criticism that adopts the theory initiated by Sigmund Freud. This theory argues that a literary work expresses the subconscious desires of the author (Delahoyde, n.d.). One of Freud's psychological concepts is about human personality. Freud argued that human personality is something that consists of several complex things. Freud argued that the human personality is made up of three parts, the id, the ego, and the superego (Dobie, 2012, p.56).

According to (Dobie, 2012, p.57), the id is the repository of the libido. The id is the source of our psychosexual desires and our psychic energy that gives life to humans. The id is part of humans satisfying pleasure by ignoring applicable

morals and ethics (Dobie, 2012, p.57). The second part of the human personality is the ego. The ego is part of the human whose job is to satisfy human desires but not in a destructive way (Bressler, 2011, p.127). The third part of the human personality is the superego. The superego is the part of humans that regulates the id; in other words, it operates based on the prevailing principle of morality (Dobie, 2012, p. 58).

2.2.1 The Concept of Anxiety

According to Freud (1964, cited in Feist & Feist, 2009, p.33), anxiety is an unpleasant feeling a person feels, accompanied by physical sensations that signal the person of impending danger. Furthermore, Freud adds that people who experience anxiety often find it difficult to realize something that causes them to feel uncomfortable and in danger. This shows that anxiety is a natural reaction of the human body in response to danger, but the cause is sometimes difficult to realize. Furthermore, Freud categorizes anxiety into three types of anxiety; neurotic anxiety, moral anxiety, and realistic anxiety.

Neurotic anxiety is anxiety or fear of the unknown (Feist & Feist, 2009, p.34). Neurotic anxiety is in the ego but comes from the id. For example, someone who has experienced trauma or an unpleasant experience with their parents in childhood will tend to experience neurotic anxiety. They will feel uncomfortable in the presence of teachers or people who employ them. This is caused by the fear they have experienced in the past and unconsciously causes neurotic anxiety.

The second type is moral anxiety. Moral anxiety is anxiety or fear resulting from the id and the superego (Schultz & Schultz, 2017, p.48). This anxiety arises when a person has the motivation to satisfy his desires contrary to morals, but there is resistance from the superego, which causes shame and guilt.

Lastly, there is realistic anxiety. Realistic anxiety is fear of the possibility of real danger in the real world (Schultz & Schultz, 2017, p.48). This anxiety involves the uncomfortable feeling towards the possibility of real danger. This fear involves fear of something that might happen; for example, we will feel uncomfortable when we visit a place we visit for the first time. In this study, the concept of anxiety by Sigmund Freud is used to analyze the kinds of anxiety experienced by Alexander Bonaparte Cust in the novel *The A. B. C. Murders*.



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CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

In this chapter, the researcher explains the method of analyzing the character of Alexander Bonaparte Cust in *The A. B. C. Murders*. This chapter presents the research method comprising research design, data source, data collection, and analysis. The following is a further explanation of the process of the research.

3.1 Research Design

This study employs qualitative descriptive research, which describes the data analysis in detail. Polkinghorne (2005) stated that the qualitative method is a research method that uses language as grouped data. This recent study uses this method to analyze the character of Alexander Bonaparte Cust in "*The ABC Murders*" by Agatha Christie. This study examines the issue of Alexander Bonaparte Cust's anxiety in depth and detail.

3.1.1 Data Sources

This study takes the data both from primary sources and secondary sources. The preliminary data of this study is from Agatha Christie's novel, *The ABC Murder*. The researcher focuses on dialogues and narrations that describe A.B. Cust's anxiety. Then this study also uses books, articles, theses, and online websites as secondary data sources to validate the data.

3.2 Data Collection Technique

The researcher uses several steps in collects the data:

1. The researcher reads *The ABC Murder* novel and determines the issue.
2. The researcher highlights the quotations that describe the analyzed characters and anxiety problems in *The ABC Murder*.
3. Then, the researcher makes a data table to put the data that has been highlighted.
4. Then, the researcher categorizes the quotations based on the description of Alexander Bonapart Cust's anxiety that shows the physical symptoms and behavior, the causes of the character's anxiety, and how Alexander Bonaparte Cust deals with his anxiety.
5. The researcher collects the data from other sources, such as articles, journals, books, and online websites, to support the analysis.

3.3 Data Analysis Technique

The researcher analyzes the data in several steps:

1. The researcher divides the data into three discussion sections; the description of Alexander Bonaparte Cust's anxiety, the causes of Alexander Bonaparte Cust's anxiety, and the way he deals the anxiety he experiences.
2. The researcher explains the description of anxiety experienced by Alexander Bonaparte Cust, what factors caused Alexander Bonaparte Cust

to experience anxiety, and the way Alexander Bonaparte Cust deals with his anxiety.

3. After that, the researcher interprets the finding of the study.
4. Lastly, the researcher concludes the analysis.



CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

4.1 Alexander Bonaparte Cust's Anxiety Described in the Novel

According to Freud, anxiety is an unpleasant feeling followed by a physical sensation that warns someone of danger. This relates to the character of Alexander Bonaparte Cust, who is described as experiencing anxiety. A. B. Cust's anxiety is described through several physical symptoms and behaviors. Here is a more detailed analysis.

4.1.1 Alexander Bonaparte Cust's Physical Symptoms

4.1.1.1 Trembling Body

The physical sensation experienced by A. B. Cust shows his anxiety is trembling in some parts of his body. A. B. Cust is seen shaking several times in parts of his body. This is his body's natural response to the anxiety and fear that he feels. A. B. Cust will be seen trembling when he is in a situation that could be dangerous for him, which in A. B. Cust's case is the news of the serial killer and also the real killer. This is shown in the quotation below,

A young man in flannel trousers and a bright blue aertex shirt who was sitting beside Mr. Cust remarked:

"Nasty business---eh?"

Mr. Cust jumped.

"Oh, very--very--"

His hands, the young man noticed, were trembling so that he could hardly hold the paper. (Christie, 1936, p. 97)

The quotation above shows A. B. Cust's hand trembling as he reads the news about ABC's murder. His trembling hand is a sign for A. B. Cust of the

danger to him, which is the killer who has committed serial murders. He is frightened because the initials ABC announced by the killer are similar to the initials of A. B. Cust's name. The news of the murder disturbs him. A. B. Cust is afraid that he will be the one blamed for the murder, so he becomes anxious. In response to his anxious feelings, A. B. Cust also shows trembling.

A. B. Cust's trembling is not only caused by the news of ABC's murder; he is also seen trembling when he has to go to work as a stocking salesman. A. B. Cust cannot contain her anxiety when traveling to do his job as a stocking salesperson. He is afraid that he will be suspected of being the murderer because he is always at the scene of the murder. This is shown in the quotation below,

"So I see. You haven't touched your breakfast. Is it your head troubling you again?"

"No. At least, yes... I--I just feel a bit out of sorts."

"Well, I'm sorry, I'm sure. You'll not be going away to-day then?"

Mr. Cust sprang up abruptly.

"No, no. I have to go. It's business. Important. Very important."

His hands were shaking. Seeing him so agitated, Mrs. Marbury tried to soothe him. (Christie, 1936, p.131)

The quotation above shows A. B. Cust trembling when he says that he has to leave for his work. A. B. Cust realizes that the place he has gone on several previous trips is the crime scene of a serial murder happens. He is afraid that the place he is going next would also be the location of the serial murders. Thinking about this makes A. B. Cust very nervous because he thinks that if he is always at the crime scene, he would be suspected of being a murderer. Therefore, A. B. Cust is seen trembling, which shows that he is anxious and scared.

A. B. Cust is always shaken when someone brings up the topic of serial killers. The topic of serial killers has become a disturbing topic for A. B. Cust, so he always feels uneasy when he hears other people talking about it. A. B. Cust's anxiety when he hears the topic of serial murder is shown in the quotation below,

Mrs. Marbury stooped rather stiffly--for stooping did not suit her figure--to pick up the paper that was lying crumpled on the floor. "Nothing but this murdering business in the papers nowadays," she said as she glanced at the headlines before putting it back on the table. "Gives me the creeps, it does. I don't read it. It's like Jack the Ripper all over again." Mr. Cust's lips moved, but no sound came from them. (Christie, 1936, p. 133)

The quotation shows A. B. Cust's trembling lips as he talks about the serial killer with others. A. B. Cust is unable to hide his anxiety perfectly with his trembling lips. Although he tries to act normal by saying that he has not read all the news about the ABC murders, he is still shaking. This shows that A. B. Cust's anxiety and fear of things related to the ABC murder is so great that he always trembles when other people talk about the topic. He is anxious because he is afraid that the more people talk about the topic, the more likely others will suspect him.

4.1.1.2 Unenthusiastic Body

Another physical sensation seen in Alexander Bonaparte Cust's character is his unenthusiastic body. Due to the news of the serial killer that plagued him. A. B. Cust always feels weak and unenthusiastic when he has to read the news related to the serial killer. When he reads the news in the newspaper, he will immediately become very unenthusiastic and weak, as it is shown in the quotation,

Suddenly he got up, paced to and fro for a minute, then sank in a chair by the window. He buried his head in his hands with a stilled He did not hear the sound of the opening door. His landlady, Mrs. Marbury, stood in the doorway. (Christie, 1936, p. 131)

The quotation above shows A. B. Cust burying his head after he reads the newspaper news about the serial killer. After A. B. Cust reads the newspaper, he immediately turns into someone who is unenthusiastic. He is anxious because the serial killer, who has initials similar to A. B. Cust, continues his murderous actions. This makes A. B. Cust feel even more uncomfortable and uneasy because he thinks he would be suspected. His thought about the murderer is the cause of A. B. Cust's unenthusiastic.

As he is unenthusiastic, A. B. Cust becomes someone who looks like he is sick. He is too deep in thought, thinking about the news of ABC's murder and also his own fate. This is shown in the quotation,

"But if you're ill?"
"I am not ill, Mrs. Marbury. Just a little worried over--various personal matters. I slept badly. I am really quite all right."
His manner was so firm that Mrs. Marbury gathered up the breakfast things and reluctantly left the room. (Christie, 1936, p. 132)

The quotation shows A. B. Cust who looks like someone who is in bad condition. A. B. Cust's body condition is because he is too anxious when he thinks

about the news of the serial killings. He is so anxious because his initials are identical to the killer's. Because of the similar initials, A. B. Cust is very uneasy when he finds out about the ABC murder news for the first time. A. B. Cust, who is already immersed in his anxiety, impacts his body condition, making him look weak and unenthusiastic, like an unhealthy person.

4.1.1.3 Dazed Walking

In addition to his trembling body, A. B. Cust's anxiety is shown when A. B. Cust is seen walking in a daze. This happened because A. B. Cust is very tired of the stress he feels. Because his energy had been drained because he keeps thinking about the ABC murder, he is seen several times walking like he has no energy. A. B. Cust's walks dazedly is shown in the quotation below,

He stared across the road.
Yes, that was it.
Mrs. Ascher. Newsagent and Tobacconist.... In the empty window
was a sign.
To Let.
Empty
Lifeless
"Excuse me, sir."
The greengrocer's wife, trying to get at some lemons.
He apologized, moved to one side.
Slowly he shuffled away--back towards the main street of the town
.... (Christie, 1936, p. 166)

The quotation above shows A. B. Cust, who struggles to walk and looks like he is dragging his feet. This is seen when A. B. Cust tries to escape from someone who watching him. A. B. Cust walking by dragging his feet shows his fatigue from constantly thinking about the ABC murder case. He becomes very

stressed, and eventually it affects his body condition, which becomes weak. In the end, it becomes burdensome for him to walk.

The struggle of A. B. Cust is also seen when he is unable to walk anymore when he is in front of the police station. He does not realize that he has forced his body to keep walking to find a safe place for him. This is shown in the quotation,

He no longer looked anywhere but at his feet.
Foot in front of foot.
He looked up. Lights in front of him. And letters
Police Station.
"That's funny," said Mr. Cust. He gave a little iggle.
Then he stepped inside. Suddenly, as he did so, he swayed and fell
forward. (Christie, 1935, p. 166)

The quotation above shows A. B. Cust walking with difficulty, falling unconscious. The physical exhaustion of A. B. Cust shows that he cannot endure the anxiety he has been experiencing. The stress that has accumulated in him drains his energy until he falls unconscious. The fatigue experienced by A. B. Cust is the result of his anxiety, which is a burden on his body.

Based on the analysis of the physical symptoms shown by A. B. Cust, it can be seen that some of these symptoms result from anxiety experienced by A. B. Cust. He feels very anxious and frightened because of the news about the serial murders committed by someone claiming to be ABC. A. B. Cust, who is anxious because of this shows through his physical conditions such as a trembling body, an unenthusiastic body, and a dazed walk.

4.1.2 Alexander Bonaparte Cust's Behavior

In the novel, it is told that A. B. Cust is suspected of being a serial killer who has been terrorizing society. A. B. Cust, who feels he has been framed by someone who wants to make him a person to blame, certainly feels very anxious and fearful. A. B. Cust is also afraid that the people around him will judge him as an immoral person. He does not want his past, where he always gets judgment from others, to be repeated. Because of these reasons, A. B. Cust's psychological condition becomes shaky, which in turn causes him to experience severe anxiety. The anxiety he experiences also affects his daily life, where he shows some physical symptoms and also some behaviors that show the anxiety he experiences. In the novel, it is found that A. B. Cust shows three physical symptoms, namely a trembling body, an unenthusiastic body, and a dazed walk. Furthermore, A. B. Cust's anxiety is also shown through some of his behaviors, such as excessive fear, agitation, insecurities, and cautious. Here is further analysis.

4.1.2.1 Excessive fear

The first A. B. Cust's act as a natural response to his anxiety is excessive fear. A. B. Cust becomes terrified, thinking he has been framed by someone unknown. He thinks this unknown person has watched him all this time. A. B. Cust's act is included in the type of realistic anxiety where the real danger in a real-life situation causes this anxiety. The real danger in the A. B. Cust case is someone who has framed A. B. Cust and manipulated the evidence so that all of the evidence points to A. B. Cust instead. Since A. B. Cust does not know who

has framed him, he becomes very wary because he thinks anyone around him can be the one who has been watching him.

A. B. Cust's fear dramatically affects his life; he becomes cautious and cannot live peacefully. He feels he is always being watched by someone he does not know. He becomes terrified because he thinks an unknown person may come to him anytime and anywhere. The following is a quotation showing the fears of A. B. Cust.

As he entered the room, his smile faded suddenly. There was a stain on his sleeve near the cuff. He touched it tentatively--wet and red—blood.
His hand dipped into his pocket and brought out something--a long, slender knife. The blade of that, too, was sticky and red.
Mr. Cust sat there a long time.
Once his eyes shot round the room like those of a hunted animal.
His tongue passed feverishly over his lips (Christie, 1936, p. 145).

The quotation above shows A. B. Cust who is confused because there are bloodstains on his clothes and a knife in his clothes pocket. This makes A. B. Cust confused and terrified. He does not understand why a knife that does not belong to him could be in his pocket. The knife is used to kill someone in the movie theater where A. B. Cust has just been. Knowing this, A. B. Cust becomes even more convinced that someone he does not know has been watching him all this time. However, even knowing this, he could not do anything and only remained silent with fear running through his body. It is described as A. B. Cust probing the room around him like a hunted animal. It indicates the great fear felt by A. B. Cust.

Feeling that he has been framed by someone whose identity he does not know, A. B. Cust is talking to nobody. He talks to nobody because he can no

longer hold back his fear. He speaks to nobody because he thinks a person always watches him and in the hope that someone watching him will listen to what he has to say. Here is a quote that shows this,

Once his eyes shot round the room like those of a hunted animal.
His tongue passed feverishly over his lips
"It isn't my fault," said Mr. Cust.
He sounded as though he were arguing with somebody---a
schoolboy pleading with his schoolmaster.
He passed his tongue over his lips again." (Christie, 1936, p. 145).

The quotation above shows A. B. Cust, who can no longer hold back the fear he feels. His fear has accumulated too much and weighed heavily on A. B. Cust. He is terrified because he does not want to be the one to be blamed for the murder that has just occurred. A. B. Cust, who always feels someone watching him, speaks to himself to convince himself that he is innocent. What he does may also be an attempt by A. B. Cust to convince himself so that he can think more calmly. The manipulation carries out by someone unknown has reached the point where A. B. Cust can no longer endure it. This is shown by the actions of A. B. Cust, who chooses to run away in the hope that he can escape from the unknown person.

Still with his fear, A. B. Cust tries to think and find a way to be free from someone who has trapped him. He finally chooses to run away as soon as possible from that place. He chooses to run away, hoping that the unknown will give up on watching over him and that he will no longer feel afraid. This is shown in the quotation below,

He slipped on his coat, tiptoed to the door, and opened it. No noise as yet except the familiar murmur arising from the bar. He crept down the stairs
Still no one.
Mr. Cust hurried across the yard and out into the street.
Round the first corner to the right---then to the left-right again...
Dare he risk the station?
Yes--there would be crowds there--special trains--if luck were on his side he would do it all right
If only luck were with him ... (Christie, 1936, p.146).

The quotation above shows A. B. Cust who is thinking about where to go to avoid someone unknown who has been watching him. A. B. Cust thinks about where he should go with the slightest chance of meeting the unknown person. A. B. Cust decides to go to the station because he thinks it will be crowded with people, so it will be safer for him to go there. Even so, A. B. Cust is still very afraid of meeting someone unknown when fleeing there. However, he resignedly decides to go to the station, hoping to be lucky. This shows A. B. Cust who is still trying to maintain his senses even though he feels excessive fear caused by the unknown person.

A. B. Cust's confusion caused by the fear of the unknown represents realistic anxiety. He becomes terrified to go somewhere because he thinks he will meet someone who watched him there. He already considers that someone unknown is a danger to him. A. B. Cust's fear of a real object impacts A. B. Cust's psychological state and mind, where he becomes more cautious in his actions. This may be good because he can avoid danger, but it can also be bad for him. A. B. Cust's overly cautious thinking became a burden on himself. A. B. Cust

became overthinking about things. A. B. Cust's great fear has even gotten to the point where he thinks some things too far-fetched are not necessarily true.

According to A. B. Cust, all the clues to the murder that pointed to him are the plan of someone who does not like him. A. B. Cust thinks that everyone has conspired against him. A. B. Cust's thoughts are shown in the quotation below,

"An enemy. I must have an enemy. They are all against me. The police---everyone--all against me. It's a gigantic conspiracy."
Poirot did not reply.
Mr. Cust said:
"Everyone's hand has been against me--always." (Christie, 1936, p. 179).

The quotation above shows how A. B. Cust's thinking has gone too far, where he thinks everyone has conspired against him. A. B. Cust's thinking is caused by his fear that no one believes in him, so he assumes everyone hates him. At this point, A. B. Cust's psychological condition is too heavy to accumulate the stress he is experiencing. The feeling of stress that has accumulated too much finally makes A. B. Cust think about the cause of everything that has befallen him. In the end, he concludes that everyone has conspired together to frame him. His thoughts are not valid and are only the result of the fear he is experiencing. Someone has framed him, but A. B. Cust's idea that everyone hates him is untrue.

Based on some of the quotations above, the excessive fear experienced by A. B. Cust is the fear of someone or a group of people who have framed him. A. B. Cust thinks someone wants to frame him as a killer. This fear causes A. B. Cust to experience severe realistic anxiety so that he becomes overly aware of his surroundings. This makes A. B. Cust terrified and hesitant to do anything because

he feels he is always being watched. A. B. Cust's fear and alertness become a factor that causes stress for him. The stress he experiences also accumulates and causes his mind to become wild and out of control. He thinks too far, which is not the truth. Even so, A. B. Cust's wild thoughts are not his fault, but there are factors of the judgment from other people. People's judgment becomes a pressure for A. B. Cust, where it is the beginning of the fear he experienced.

4.1.2.2 Agitation

The serial killings by someone claiming to be ABC make Alexander Bonaparte Cust exceedingly agitated. All the evidence that appeared in the media is entirely related to the letters ABC, starting from the victim's initials to the first letter of the name of the crime scene. A. B. Cust becomes agitated because he feels ABC refers to him. A. B. Cust thinks it is no coincidence and concludes that someone has arranged it. He thinks that someone has deliberately framed him to become the perpetrator of the serial killers.

However, it is too late because the news about the ABC serial killers has spread. This causes all the evidence and clues about the serial killings also to be spread so that everyone will know about it soon. People will immediately know that the killer has the initials ABC, similar to Alexander Bonaparte Cust's. Due to the spread of this news, A. B. Cust becomes agitated every time he reads about the serial killings. A. B. Cust's anxieties are shown in the quotation,

A young man in flannel trousers and a bright blue Aertex shirt who was sitting beside Mr. Cust remarked:
"Nasty business---eh?"
Mr. Cust jumped.

"Oh, very--very--"

His hands, the young man noticed, were trembling so that he could hardly hold the paper.

"You never know with lunatics," said the young man chattily. "They don't always look balmy, you know. Often they seem just the same as you or me." (Christie, 1936, p. 97).

The quotation above shows that A. B. Cust's hands are shaking while reading a newspaper. The newspaper contains news about serial killings carried out by ABC. He is described as shaking so much when reading the newspaper that he has difficulty holding it. It showed A. B. Cust is agitated by the news. A. B. Cust, who has just read his first newspaper that day, is shocked by the news of a murder committed by ABC, which has the initials of his name. Maybe it is a coincidence for others, but not for A. B. Cust. He takes the news very seriously because it involves the initials of his name.

A. B. Cust, who has read the newspaper containing the story of the ABC murders, immediately becomes agitated for fear that others will soon learn about his initials. He fears people will suspect him because he has the same initials as the serial killer on the news. Even so, A. B. Cust, who can barely hide his anxiety and fear, can still hide it from others so that others will not be too suspicious of him. He can continue his conversation with other people by covering up his anxiety.

A. B. Cust's anxiety when reading a newspaper containing serial killers continues when he reads the next newspaper. He always feels the same anxiety, especially in the newspaper that is about the ABC murders. A. B. Cust's agitate is shown in the quotation below.

Mr. Alexander Bonaparte Cust sat very still. His breakfast lay cold and untasted on his plate. A newspaper was propped up against the teapot and it was this newspaper that Mr. Cust was reading with avid interest. Suddenly he got up, paced to and fro for a minute, then sank into a chair by the window. He buried his head in his hands with a stilled

He did not hear the sound of the opening door. His landlady, Mrs. Marbury, stood in the doorway.

"I was wondering, Mr. Cust, if you'd fancy a nice--why, whatever is it? Aren't you feeling well?" Mr. Cust raised his head from his hands. "Nothing. It's nothing at all, Mrs. Marbury. I'm not--feeling well this morning." (Christie, 1936, p.131).

The quotation above shows A. B. Cust, who looks not in good shape after reading the newspaper. He agitates because he repeatedly reads the newspaper about the ABC murders. He also becomes unenthusiastic because he is absorbed in his uneasy feelings. This can be seen by his breakfast already cold, which indicates he does not even intend to finish his breakfast. A. B. Cust reads a newspaper report about the ongoing ABC murders. He also becomes agitated because he knows the killer who used his initials continues his actions. This made A. B. Cust thinks he is even more unsafe because the longer this case goes on, the more likely people would suspect A. B. Cust. He agitates because he thinks he will be judged if people suspect him. However, there was nothing he could do. He can only drown in his anxiety and fear.

At this point, again, A. B. Cust could barely hide his anxiety from others. Because he is too overwhelmed to maintain his psychological condition, A. B. Cust becomes someone who looks very strange. In the eyes of others, the behavior of A. B. Cust is not like the behavior he usually exhibits. A. B. Cust behaves strange because he has always tried to look calm and not worry in front of other

people. This is shown by A. B. Cust's act, who speaks haltingly and nervously when other people talk to him. In addition, A. B. Cust, who drowned in his feelings of anxiety, is shown by his behavior that he looks like a very stressed person. He is also seen burying his head into his hands, which shows he is already very stressed about many things. Then he does not finish his breakfast. After all, he feels unenthusiastic after reading the newspaper because his anxiety is too much to handle. This shows both the mental state and mind of A. B. Cust, who is already very burdened by the news about the ABC serial killers. Due to the news of the murder, A. B. Cust's thoughts are only about the news. He cannot get rid of his thoughts because for him, it is a danger, so he has to stay alert and think about it.

A. B. Cust, who is frightened by the news about the serial killings carried out by someone claiming to be ABC, becomes too sensitive and agitated when there is someone who talks of the news. He becomes very nervous and scared when someone asks him to talk about the news of the murder. This agitation feeling felt by A. B. Cust is shown in the quotation below,

Mrs. Marbury stooped rather stiffly--for stooping did not suit her figure--to pick up the paper that was lying crumpled on the floor. "Nothing but this murdering business in the papers nowadays," she said as she glanced at the headlines before putting it back on the table.

"Gives me the creeps, it does. I don't read it. It's like Jack the Ripper all over again."

Mr. Cust's lips moved, but no sound came from them (Christie, 1936, 132).

The quotation above shows A. B. Cust agitating when someone talks about the ABC serial killers. It can be seen if A. B. Cust's mouth is moving

or like someone who is talking to himself. However, even though it looks like he is talking, there is no sound coming out of A. B. Cust's mouth. It shows A. B. Cust who is freaking out because someone is talking about the news of the ABC murders. A. B. Cust becomes very afraid that the person who talks to him would suspect A. B. Cust as the perpetrator of the serial killers. He is worried that the person would immediately realize that the characteristics of the perpetrator mentioned in the news match the characteristics of A. B. Cust. Due to his thoughts, A. B. Cust is unconsciously moves his lips like someone is talking because he is very nervous and scared at the same time.

A. B. Cust's anxiety is caused after he reads a newspaper that contains ABC's murder. As a result, A. B. Cust's acts become strange in the eye of people. He always gets nervous when talking to others. In addition, he feels that other people are always watching him. A. B. Cust's feelings are shown in the quotation below,

"Mr. Cust put the receiver back very gently on the hook.
He turned to where Mrs. Marbury was standing in the doorway of a room, clearly devoured with curiosity.
"Not often you have a telephone call, Mr. Cust."
"No--er--no, Mrs. Marbury. It isn't."
"Not bad news, I trust?"
"No--no." How persistent the woman was. His eye caught the legend on the newspaper he was carrying.
Births--Marriages--Deaths...
"My sister's just had a little boy," he blurted out.
He--who had never had a sister!" (Christie, 1936, p. 159).

The quote above shows how A.B. Cust has difficulty interacting with others because he has to cover up his uneasy feelings. A. B. Cust stutters when he

speaks to other people. He becomes like that because he is confused about how to respond to conversations with others. He feels so uneasy when talking to other people that he finds it difficult to maintain his normal behavior. He does not want his actions to look strange in other people's eyes, later making them suspicious of him. However, because A. B. Cust tries to make himself look normal, what happens is that he looks like someone who is acting strange. A. B. Cust is someone who looks very suspicious. This can be seen in the quotation above, A. B. Cust stutters when communicating with other people. He is so nervous that he finds it difficult to speak. Besides that, even A. B. Cust has to lie to make himself look normal. This is shown by A. B. Cust, who said he had a sister even though he never had a sister.

A. B. Cust's anxiety becomes more severe when his friend calls him. She says that if a police inspector is looking for A. B. Cust. Of course, the fact that a police inspector is looking for him makes A. B. Cust very nervous and confused. He is confused about whether someone has reported him to the police so that he will become a suspect in the murder. This is shown in the quotation below.

“Why had she telephoned him? Could she possibly have guessed? Or did she just want to make sure he would stay in for the inspector's visit?

But how did she know the inspector was coming? And her voice-- she'd disguised her voice from her mother... It looked---it looked--- as though she knew...

But surely if she knew, she wouldn't...

She might, though. Women were very queer. Unexpectedly cruel and unexpectedly kind. He'd seen Lily once letting a mouse out of a mouse trap.” (Christie, 1936, p.161).

The quotation above shows A. B. Cust is agitated when he receives the information that a police inspector is seeking him. Even though the purpose of the inspector looking for Cust is unclear, this is enough to make him overthink about somethings. A. B. Cust thinks he will soon become a murder suspect because all the evidence matches him. In addition, A. B. Cust also thinks that it is the woman who has informed him that a police inspector is looking for him who has reported him to the police. A. B. Cust thinks the people around him have suspected him because of his initials and strange acts. At this time, A. B. Cust's anxiety has reached the point where he has difficulty holding it down.

A. B. Cust's agitated can be said to be neurotic anxiety. This neurotic anxiety is shown when A. B. Cust feels very anxious when interacting with other people and when a police inspector is seeking him. His feelings of anxiety appear unconscious because he is afraid of receiving judgment from people. He is afraid he will become a person many people suspect; therefore, he seems to stutter when interacting. Meanwhile, when an inspector is looking for him, A. B. Cust feels uneasy because he is afraid he will be punished if he meets the police inspector.

Based on some of the quotations above, A. B. Cust feels agitated because of the emergence of news about serial killings carried out by ABC. He becomes very uneasy because he feels that the initials are similar to his own. A. B. Cust's agitation continues every time he reads the news about the ABC murders. A. B. Cust's growing anxiety results in the strange acts of A. B. Cust. He always becomes nervous when interacting with others because he always tries to cover up

the anxiety he experiences. He has to cover up his anxiety because he does not want other people to suspect him as a suspect in a serial killer. He cannot be getting the judgment of others who are presented to him. Therefore, he always hides his anxiety so that other people are not suspicious of him.

4.1.2.3 Insecurity

Not only does he feels severe anxiety, but Alexander Bonaparte Cust also feels insecure about himself. His anxiety arises because he gets judgmental views from other people. He once has an experience where he becomes the subject of ridicule by his friends at school because of his name. Even though the name is given by A. B. Cust's mother, he does not feel proud of his own name. In addition, A. B. Cust also feels that he has a slower development than the people around him. Because of this, A. B. Cust thinks that all his efforts were in vain. This sense of insecurity causes A. B. Cust to not believe in himself and always think he is stupid. Therefore, because of this low self-esteem, A. B. Cust stays away from others.

A. B. Cust's sense of insecurity is shown for the first time when he is confused about where to go to find a place to his. At that time, A. B. Cust's insecurity is shown through his thoughts. He thinks that he is a fool for running aimlessly. In addition, he also looks like he blames himself, even though he does nothing wrong. This is shown in the quotation below.

But man was a ridiculous animal anyway...
And he, Alexander Bonaparte Cust, was particularly ridiculous...
He always had been...
People had always laughed at him...
He couldn't blame them...

Where was he going? He didn't know. He'd correct to the end. He no longer looked anywhere but at his feet (Christie, 1936, p. 166).

The quotation above shows A. B. Cust is confused about where to go because he has nowhere to go. At that time, A. B. Cust is not only experiencing anxiety and fear, but he is also experiencing an equally great sense of inferiority. He feels that others are always laughing at him. A. B. Cust, who has dissolved in his inferiority complex, could only blame himself. He also becomes someone who can only be silent when humiliated by others. A. B. Cust, who is confused, can only follow where his feet are going. It happens because A. B. Cust has nowhere else to go.

A. B. Cust's sense of insecurity about himself is included in neurotic anxiety, where this anxiety arises unconsciously because of past experiences. A. B. Cust has received a judgment from the people around him, so he becomes traumatized unconsciously. In the end, it causes anxiety for A. B. Cust. Therefore, A. B. Cust grows up with his feeling of insecurity. This experience makes A. B. Cust become someone who does not trust himself and tends to think of himself as ridiculous. A. B. Cust is always afraid to interact with others because he fears unconsciously receiving judgments from others. His past trauma also impacts A. B. Cust's mental formation, in which he prefers to be alone and interacts little with others.

A. B. Cust's sense of insecurity had appeared since he was small, which was first caused by his mother's giving him a name. According to A. B. Cust, the name given by his mother was too much of a burden for him, as he had to endure

ridicule from his peers who laughed at his name. A. B. Cust's experience is shown in the quotation below.

"Even when you were a child?"

Mr. Cust seemed to consider.

"No---no--not exactly then. My mother was very fond of me. But she was ambitious-- ambitious. That's why she gave me those ridiculous names. She had some absurd idea that I'd cut a figure in the world. She was always urging me to assert myself--talking about willpower..., saying anyone could be master of his fate..., she said I could do anything!"

He was silent for a minute (Christie, 1936, p. 179).

The quote above shows A. B. Cust telling a story about his mother, who he thinks does something absurd by giving his name Alexander Bonaparte Cust. According to A. B. Cust, the name his mother gave is overburdening him because not only does she give the name, but the mother also has big hopes for her child in the name she gave. However, his mother's hopes burden A. B. Cust because he cannot fulfill his mother's expectations. He is also unconfident with the name his mother gave him because A. B. Cust thinks his name is ridiculous. In the end, instead of being proud of the name his mother gave him, A. B. Cust feels unconfident about this name.

A. B. Cust, who is unconfident with the name given to him by his mother, grows up constantly getting ridiculed by his peers. Most of A. B. Cust's friends mock and laugh at A. B. Cust, who thinks A. B. Cust is a fool. This makes A. B. Cust difficult for him to develop. He becomes afraid to try new things for fear of ridicule from his friends. This is shown in the quotation,

"She was quite wrong, of course. I realized that myself quite soon. I wasn't the sort of person to get on in life. I was always doing foolish things--making myself look ridiculous. I had a bad time at school--the boys found out my Christian name--they used to tease me about them. I did very badly at school, and I became timid---afraid of people." (Christie, 1936, p. 180).

The quotation above shows A. B. Cust telling Detective Poirot about his past, where his friends always tease him. His friends ridicule him because they know the name 'Alexander Bonaparte Cust.' A. B. Cust, who has been burdened by the name given by his mother, becomes increasingly insecure. It shows the impact of people's judgment on the mental state of A. B. Cust. The words of his friends influence him, and he finds himself very ridiculous. This causes anxiety in A. B. Cust. He has to accept the burden and stress beyond his ability to withstand.

A. B. Cust's insecurities continue into his adulthood. His development is always left by his friends of the same age, both when he is studying and when he is working. Because he always feels left behind, A. B. Cust always thinks he cannot do things as other people do. He does not have confidence when he is doing something which makes A. B. Cust unable to develop. Here is a quotation that shows A. B. Cust's insecurity.

"Just as well poor mother died. She'd have been disappointed... Even when I was at the Commercial College I was stupid--it took me longer to learn typing and shorthand than any one else. And yet I did feel stupid--if you know what I mean. It was just the feeling that everybody else thought me stupid. Very paralyzing. It was the same thing later in the office." (Christie, 1936, p. 180).

The quotation above shows A. B. Cust who is telling about his own experience in which he is always left behind compared to others. A. B. Cust says that he is always the one who is left behind since he is in college and even when

he is in a job. He feels that all his efforts to study and work are wasted. He thinks that he always gets left behind no matter what he tries. This shows a sense of insecurity towards the achievements he has. This feeling of insecurity arises because A. B. Cust feels he is stupid because his development is slower than others. Due to his feeling of insecurity, A. B. Cust finds it difficult to develop himself. It happens because he can only drag on in his feelings of insecurity.

In addition, in the quotation above, A. B. Cust says he is ridiculous and stupid because his friends always tease him. This shows the magnitude of the effect of people's judgment on a person's mental state, especially during the developmental period. A. B. Cust has to accept the heavy burden of the name his mother gave him and, at the same time, accept ridicule from his friends. Of course, that is very hard for little A. B. Cust, which ultimately affected A. B. Cust's mentality. Since receiving bad judgment from others, A. B. Cust becomes a cowardly child, considering himself stupid and unable to do anything well.

Based on the analysis of some of the quotations above, it can be seen that A. B. Cust's anxiety when he once received a wrong judgment from those around him. Because of the people's judgment he received, A. B. Cust becomes insecure and is always afraid to interact with other people or try new things. Of course, this became an obstacle for him, which he always left behind and found difficult to develop. A. B. Cust always hides and handles his anxiety by himself, and it continues to grow until he is an adult, which unconsciously becomes one of the factors that causes him to experience anxiety, especially neurotic anxiety.

4.1.2.4 Cautious

Another A. B. Cust's behavior that shows his anxiety is cautious. A. B. Cust's cautious behavior arises because he feels the danger that threatens him. Therefore, this cautious behavior is A. B. Cust's natural response which functions so that he can avoid this danger. A. B. Cust's cautious behavior is shown by his caution when thinking about a choice and also when thinking about the actions of others that might harm him.

A. B. Cust, who thinks that he has been framed by someone unknown, feels that he is always being watched. A. B. Cust feels that everything he does is being watched by someone unknown. Due to that reason, he becomes wary of the circumstances around him. In addition, A. B. Cust is someone who is careful in making decisions. He chooses to be careful because he does not want his wrong decision to cause danger to him. The cautious characterization of A. B. Cust is described in the quotation below,

He paused at the foot of the stairs. Which way now? He made up his mind and darted quickly along a passage and out by the door that gave into the yard. Mr. Cust hurried across the yard and out into the street.

Round the first corner to the right---then to the left-right again... Dare he risk the station?

Yes--there would be crowds there--special trains--if luck were on his side he would do it all right (Christie, 1936, p.146).

The quotation above shows A. B. Cust who thinks very carefully in deciding where to go, and in the end, he chooses to go to the station. He chooses the station because he thinks it is the safest place for him. After all, it is full of people. Carefully, A. B. Cust chooses the safest place to escape from something that endangers him. This shows A. B. Cust's cautious act in thinking about a

choice. He is cautious because he does not want to get into a situation that endangers him. So as much as possible, A. B. Cust will choose to make himself safe. Something that endangers him at that time is the serial killer. A. B. Cust feels that the serial killer is watching him. He feels he cannot continue living in his last place, so he tries to escape the killer. He feels terrified because he feels he has been watched and framed.

Due to his feelings of being watched, A. B. Cust cannot easily trust others. He becomes always suspicious of other people. This happens because he thinks that maybe it is the person closest to him who has done all these things to A. B. Cust. Cust. He is afraid that the people around him have conspired to frame him. Because his mind is filled with fear and suspicion, A. B. Cust does not easily trust the people around him, even though he knows them quite well. A. B. Cust's behavior is described in the quotation below,

Why had she telephoned him? Could she possibly have guessed? Or did she just want to make sure he would stay in for the inspector's visit?

But how did she know the inspector was coming? and her voice-- she'd disguised her voice from her mother... (Christie, 1936, p.161).

The quotation above shows that A. B. Cust distrusts a woman he knows has reported himself to the police. The woman calls A. B. Cust and tells him a police inspector is looking for him. Because of this, A. B. Cust thinks other people have assumed he is a murderer who has appeared in the newspapers. In addition, he also thought that other people already knew that he was always at the scene of a murder case. This is the cause of A. B. Cust's distrust of other people because he thinks they will report him without him knowing. In the previous quotation, A. B.

Cust shows distrust act toward the woman who called him. Even though he has always believed in her. A. B. Cust's trust in the woman is broken due to the anxiety experienced by A. B. Cust.

Because of A. B. Cust's cautious behavior, it becomes difficult for him to trust others. This causes his trust in the people around him to collapse and grow suspicious. This applies to everyone around A. B. Cust, including people he initially trusted. A. B. Cust, who is already haunted by fear, eventually becomes suspicious of the people closest to him. The suspicion of A. B. Cust is shown in the quotation below,

It looked---it looked---as though she knew But surely if she knew, she wouldn't...
She might, though. Women were very queer. Unexpectedly cruel and unexpectedly kind. He'd seen Lily once letting a mouse out of a mouse trap. (Christie, 1936, p.161).

The quotation above shows A. B. Cust's thoughts of suspecting a woman who he initially believes is a good person. However, because A. B. Cust already thinks that someone has trapped him and watched him all this time, he finally finds it difficult to trust the people around him, including those closest to him. A. B. Cust, who initially thinks the woman is a good person, thinks that maybe the woman has suspected A. B. Cust. B. Cust as a murderer. A. B. Cust thinks that the woman might have known all his alibis and reported him to the police. This shows A. B. Cust's anxious self because he feels that there is no one he can trust anymore. He becomes so anxious that, in the end, he chooses not to trust the people around him.

The analysis of A. B. Cust's cautious behavior shows that A. B. Cust has a high sense of anxiety about the danger from the circumstances around him, so he

finally forms a behavior to avoid this danger. This cautious behavior is something that has both good and bad effects on A. B. Cust. The positive impact of A. B. Cust's cautious behavior is that he can avoid a danger that endangers him, which in A. B. Cust's case is the serial killer. With A. B. Cust's caution, he can choose options that make him safe from these dangers. While the negative impact of this behavior is that A. B. Cust has difficulty trusting the people around him even though the person may not have bad intentions toward him. This causes the trust he has in others to be destroyed, and he becomes always suspicious of others.

4.2 The Causes of A.B.Cust Anxiety

In the novel "The ABC Murders," Alexander Bonaparte Cust is a character who is described as experiencing severe anxiety. His severe anxiety is very burdensome to his psychological condition; he always feels afraid and anxious. Consequently, his behavior looks very suspicious in the eyes of others. Of course, A.B. Cust's anxiety does not just happen, and there is a factor that causes his anxiety. The cause of A.B. Cust's anxiety is the news about the serial killer and people's judgment. Here is a further analysis of the causes of A. B. Cust's anxiety.

4.2.1 The News of Serial Killer

In the novel, it is told that the beginning of the series of serial murders that occurred is when Hercule Poirot, the detective in the novel, receives a letter from someone unknown. The letter contains a warning and a challenge for Poirot to prevent him from doing something that will happen. The letter is also the cause of A. B. Cust's anxiety later. The contents of the letter are as follows,

MR HERCULE POIROT--You fancy yourself, don't you, at solving mysteries that are too difficult for our poor thick-headed British police? Let us see, Mr. Clever Poirot, just how clever you can be. Perhaps you'll find this nut too hard to crack Look out for Andover on the 21st of the month.

Yours, etc.,

ABC (Christie, 1936, p.16).

The quotation above is the content of the letter received by Poirot, where the sender challenges him to stop himself from doing something. In the letter, the sender says he will do something in Andover on the 21st. He wanted to test Poirot's intelligence, so he sent the letter to Poirot. At the end of the letter, the writer wrote his name and claimed to be ABC. Because of the ABC initials, Alexander Bonaparte Cust became very scared and eventually experienced anxiety. A. B. Cust was concerned that the killer's initials were identical to his own. It is not confirmed that the initials belonged to Alexander Bonaparte Cust; however, Cust becomes very agitated when he knows the news that a murder has been committed by someone who claimed to be ABC. This is shown in the quotation below,

"Only a month ago England was shocked and startled by the murder of a young girl, Elizabeth Barnard, at Bexhill. It may be remembered that an ABC railway guide figured in the case. An ABC was also found in the dead body of Sir Carmichael Clarke, and the police were inclined to the belief that both crimes were committed by the same person. Can it be possible that a homicidal murderer is going around our seaside resorts?...

A young man in flannel trousers and a bright blue Aertex shirt who was sitting beside Mr. Cust remarked:

"Nasty business---eh?"

Mr. Cust jumped, "Oh, very--very--"

His hands, the young man noticed, were trembling so that he could hardly hold the paper." (Christie, 1936, p. 97).

The quotation shows the anxiety felt by A.B. Cust when he read the news about the murders committed by someone claiming to be ABC AB Cust shocks and trembles to read the newspaper about the murder. Shocked and trembling, A. B. Cust profoundly thinks of the killer's initials. He is surprised that the killer's initials are the same as the initials of his name. He does not think that is just a coincidence and thinks that the killer has planned to frame him as the killer.

The serial killings are carried out by someone who claims to be ABC and is also carried out alphabetically. The victims are purposely selected based on their initials and killed in alphabetical order, ABC. This makes A.B. Cust even more nervous because everything the killer does is related to ABC. He increasingly feels that the killer has planned all this to frame A. B. Cust.

"Funny. I thought you went to Cheltenham from Paddington."

"So you do. But old Cust wasn't going to Cheltenham. He was going to Doncaster."

"Cheltenham."

"Doncaster. I know, my girl! After all, I picked up his ticket, didn't it"

"Well, he told me he was going to Cheltenham. I'm sure he did."

"He wasn't at Bexhill the time before, was he?"

Lily crinkled her brows.

"He was away Yes, I remember he was away.. because he forgot his bathing-dress. Mother was mending it for him. And she said: 'There--Mr. Cust went away yesterday without his bathing-dress after all,' lisand I said: 'Oh, never mind the old bathing-dress--there's been the most awful murder,' I said, 'a girl strangled at Bexhill.'" (Christie, 1936, p. 135).

The quotation above shows A. B. Cust lying to others about his next destination. He lies because he wants to cover up the fact that he always travels to the scene case of the murders. He does not want other people to suspect him as a killer who has committed serial killings. Even so, that does not eliminate the

feeling of anxiety inside A. B. Cust. A. B. Cust's lies do not change the facts about his alibi being at the scene of the murder case. All the clues that the media have exposed match entirely the description of A. B. Cust. Due to all those clues, A. B. Cust becomes increasingly agitated because he cannot ignore these facts. He does not think all those clues are coincidental and weighs heavily on A. B. Cust's psychological condition. He becomes very stressed thinking about the ABC murders and his alibi, and in the end, he experiences severe anxiety.

From some of the quotations above, it can be seen that A. B. Cust's anxiety occurs because he overthinks about something too much where it is not necessarily the actual reality. However, A. B. Cust has already fallen into his overthinking mind about the clues to the serial killings that are taking place. A. B. Cust assumes that the killer has deliberately arranged all of the case's evidence and his alibi to frame A. B. Cust as the perpetrator of the murder. The killer plans to frame A. B. Cust as the suspected and blamed party. That way, the killer will not be in the least bit suspicious because all the evidence would point to A. B. Cust.

4.2.2 People's Judgment

Besides feeling uneasy because everything about him is related to the murders, A.B. Cust's anxiety is also caused by a wrong judgment that he gets from people around him. The people who judge A.B. Cust make him very depressed, and it causes a decrease in his self-confidence that A.B. Cust has. He becomes very insecure about everything he has. A. B. Cust is influenced by the words of the people around him, and in the end, he becomes an individual who has low

self-esteem. This feeling of inferiority also made A.B. Cust constantly uncomfortable around other people and chose to be alone.

A.B. Cust always chooses to stay away from people because he feels uncomfortable and is often seen talking to himself. A.B. Cust's behavior is considered strange by other people around him, with the spread of the news of the serial murder that happened at that time, A. B. Cust is suspected by others. People around A. B. Cust are suspicious of him because he always behaves strangely. At first, the people around him do not think a bit about A. B. Cust being a serial killer, but because he is acting increasingly strange every day, he becomes under suspicion of people. The people's suspicion of A. B. Cust is shown in the quotation below,

“And then I said to her it would be odd if he was the ABC. In my underneath like, I began wondering about this Cust fellow and thinking that, after all, harmless as he seemed, he might be batty. Torn took a breath and then went on. Inspector Crome was listening intently now.” (Christie, 1936, p. 156).

The quotation above shows someone judging A. B. Cust based solely on his appearance. The person thinks maybe A. B. Cust is the one who has been carrying out the serial killings all along. He thinks that way because of A. B. Cust's appearance and behavior, which he thinks is like a madman. It shows that people judge A.B.Cust not based on concrete evidence that has been proven and suspects him only based on their appearance of A.B.Cust. Of course, this put pressure on A. B. Cust. He becomes very stressed because he gets an unfounded

judgment, which ultimately causes the stress he feels even more piled up. This accumulated stress eventually causes A. B. Cust to experience severe anxiety.

People do not only judge A. B. Cust on his appearance, but another thing causes them to become suspicious of A. B. Cust. It is the name that belongs to A.B. Cust. Even though the killer's initial is similar to Alexander Bonaparte Cust's initial, their suspicion is still a wrong judgment. They judge A. B. Cust based on things that are not necessarily the truth. The people who judge the name A. B. Cust are shown in the quotation below,

"And then after the Doncaster murder, sir, it was in all the papers that information was wanted as to the whereabouts of a certain A.B. Case or Cash, and it gave a description that fitted well enough. The first evening off I had, I went round to Lily's and asked her what her Mr. Cust's initials were. She couldn't remember at first, but her mother did. Said they were A.B. right enough. Then we got down to it and tried to figure out if Cust had been away at the time of the first murder at Andover." (Christie, 1936, p. 156).

The quotation above shows other people's suspicion of A.B. Cust because the initial is similar to the name 'ABC,' which is the initial that the killer always wrote in his letters. The people's judgment of A.B.Cust shows that they suspect A.B.Cust without concrete evidence and conclude only based on what might be a coincidence. That is bad for A. B. Cust as he constantly gets unfounded judgments from others. With several people suspecting A. B. Cust as a serial killer, it shows that the killer's goal of framing A. B. Cust has been achieved. All the fake evidence that the killer has created succeeded in deceiving people who know about it, and as a result, they suspected A. B. Cust because of the evidence and A.

B. Cust's alibi. He also feels that the people around him no longer trust him, which makes him very anxious and wary of his surroundings.

People's suspicion of him certainly put much pressure on A.B. Cust's psychological condition. The suspicious and judgmental feelings shown by others towards A.B. Cust cause stress and fear in his mind. For that reason, A.B. Cust becomes a person who is more aware of his surroundings and is also more easily afraid of uncertain things. The wary and fearful behavior that A. B. Cust experienced is shown in the quotation,

“And her voice--she'd disguised her voice from her mother... It looked---it looked---as though she knew... But surely if she knew, she wouldn't...
She might, though. Women were very queer. Unexpectedly cruel and unexpectedly kind.
He paused by the hall stand with its load of umbrellas and coats. Should he--?
A slight noise from the kitchen decided him ...
No, there wasn't time ...
Mrs. Marbury might come out ...
He opened the front door, passed through, and closed it behind ...
Where ...?” (Christie, 1936, p.161).

The quotation above shows that A.B. Cust is afraid and feels insecure after knowing someone may have suspected him. He feels that if other people suspected him of a murderer carrying out serial killings so far. Knowing this, A. B. Cust becomes afraid and worried that he will soon be arrested by the police looking for him. Thinking that the people around him have suspected him, A. B. Cust feels there is no safe place to hide. In addition, A. B. Cust also feels betrayed by someone he has always thought is a good person. He could not believe that the

person he believes has suspected him of being a murderer and reported it to the police.

The wrong judgment of people towards A.B.Cust causes the feeling of afraid and insecurity felt by A.B.Cust. People have suspected that A.B. Cust is the culprit of the serial killings that are taking place. Knowing that other people have suspected him, A. B. Cust is even more dissolved in his fear and overthinking, affecting his anxiety. A. B. Cust's anxiety worsens the more he knows the suspicions of other people against him.

Not only does he get judgment from other people when he is suspected of being a serial killer, but A. B. Cust also received a judgment from his friends when he was a child. As a child, A. B. Cust is always judged by his friends. His friends judge him because they think A. B. Cust has a stupid name. Because he is always ridiculed, A. B. Cust becomes insecure about the name his mother gave him. The feeling of insecurity caused by the ridicule of his friends is shown in the quotation below,

"And I was timid---afraid of people. I had a bad time at school--the boys found out my Christian names--they used to tease me about them. I did very badly at school--in games and work and everything."
(Christie, 1936, p.179).

In the quotation above, A.B. Cust tells about his unhappy past. A.B. Cust is always bullied by his friends and laughs at the name 'Alexander Bonaparte Cust' he has. A. B. Cust's friends think the name is ridiculous, so they laugh it off. The bullying experienced by A. B. Cust impacts his psychological condition of A. B. Cust, where he becomes insecure about himself. The ridicule that A. B. Cust

always receives disturbed his development in childhood. He becomes a child afraid to socialize with his friends because he fears they will ridicule A. B. Cust again. A. B. Cust's fear shows that he has experienced anxiety since childhood. The cause is still the same, people's judgment.

A. B. Cust's experience, where he gets ridiculed by his friends, is the cause of anxiety when A. B. Cust is still a child. A. B. Cust, who has experienced anxiety since childhood, must grow up with low self-esteem. He always thinks he is stupid, and this continues until he reaches adulthood. A. B. Cust's feelings of inferiority are shown in the quotation below,

"Even when I was at the Commercial College I was stupid--it took me longer to learn typing and shorthand than anyone else. It was just the feeling that everybody else thought me stupid. Very paralyzing. It was the same thing later in the office." (Christie, 1936, p.180).

The quotation above shows A. B. Cust, who talks about himself and feels other people think he is stupid. This is the impact of A. B. Cust's past, where he always gets a judgment from his friends. The judgment from his friends impacts the development of A. B. Cust. As a result, when A. B. Cust becomes an adult, he has difficulty interacting with others. He becomes such an individual because he fears other people's judgment. A.B. Cust is insecure and sees himself left behind by his friends. Because of this feeling of being left behind, A.B. Cust becomes someone who cannot appreciate himself and always feels inferior. At this time, A. B. Cust is unconsciously experiencing anxiety caused by other people's judgments about him.

Some of the quotations above show how the impact of people's judgment on a person's psychological condition. Anxiety experienced by A.B. Cust in the novel *The ABC Murder* does not just happen but arises due to A.B. Cust's experience, which is judged by others. People's judgment of A.B. Cust grows a sense of insecurity about himself, making him afraid to interact with others. The severe fear that A.B. Cust experienced when thinking about serial killings is compounded by people's judgment of him. The suspicion of other people towards A. B. Cust makes him afraid and anxious, disturbing A. B. Cust's psychological condition. The suspicious feelings of other people so burden him, and then he experiences severe anxiety.

4.3 The Way Alexander Bonaparte Cust Deals with His Anxiety

For most of the storyline of *The ABC Murders*, Alexander Bonaparte Cust's character is described as having severe anxiety. This anxiety affects his daily life. Even so, there is a phase where A. B. Cust can overcome the anxiety he experiences. The way that A. B. Cust overcome his anxiety is by having the courage to tell the truth about what happened. However, A. B. Cust must go through various problems before telling the whole truth.

Before A. B. Cust can tell the truth to others, he can only keep the anxious feelings he is experiencing. As a result, stress continues to grow inside A. B. Cust to the point where he can no longer bear the stress that has accumulated. This is shown in the quotation below,

Where was he going? He didn't know. He'd correct to the end. He no longer looked anywhere but at his feet.

Foot in front of foot.

He looked up. Lights in front of him. And letters

Police Station.

"That's funny," said Mr. Cust. He gave a little iggle.

Then he stepped inside. Suddenly, as he did so, he swayed and fell forward. (Christie, 1936, p. 166)

The quotation above shows A. B. Cust, exhausted from continuing to keep his stress. He continues to hold back his anxious feelings to the point where he can no longer handle it. As a result, his body can no longer bear it, which is signaled by A. B. Cust's fall and then unconscious. In addition, A. B. Cust also seems unaware that he continues walking until he arrives in front of the police station. This shows that A. B. Cust wants to tell everything that happened to be able to release all the stress he is holding back. This is shown in the quotation below,

"And afterwards asked Poirot.

"I got a place as a clerk. Of course there was good money to be got just then. And I didn't do so badly after the war. Of course, a smaller salary And--I didn't seem to get on. I was always being passed over for promotion. I wasn't going ahead enough. It grew very difficult--really very difficult Especially when the slump came. To tell you the truth, I'd got hardly enough to keep body and soul together (and you've got to look presentable as a clerk) when I got the offer of this stocking job. A salary and commission!"

Poirot said gently: "But you are aware, are you not, that the firm who you say employed you deny the fact?"

Mr. Cust got excited again.

"That's because they're in the conspiracy--they must be in the conspiracy." (Christie, 1936, p.180)

The quotation above shows A. B. Cust finally telling what is inside his thought. He tells Poirot his story enthusiastically. This indicates that A. B. Cust needs someone to listen to his story to release all the stress he has been feeling, and then he can overcome his anxiety. Talking to Poirot helps

to reduce A. B. Cust's anxious feelings. He looks more energetic and alive than before. This is shown in the quotation,

I must mention a visit we had from Mr. Alexander Bonaparte Cust a few days later. After wringing Poirot's hand and endeavouring very incoherently and unsuccessfully to thank him, Mr. Cust drew himself up and said:

"Do you know, a newspaper has actually offered me a hundred pounds--a hundred pounds--for a brief account of my life and history. I--I really don't know what to do about it."

"I should not accept a hundred," said Poirot. "Be firm. Say five hundred is your price. And do not confine yourself to one newspaper." (Christie, 1936, p. 199)

The quotation above shows A. B. Cust looking more energized and happy after Poirot hears the whole story. A. B. Cust no longer looks like a sick and gloomy person. It can be seen that A. B. Cust wrings Poirot's hand, which shows that A. B. Cust is very grateful to Poirot for helping him. For A. B. Cust, Poirot is helpful in solving his case and curing his anxiety. The changing image of A. B. Cust indicates that the way he has done it is the right way to overcome his anxiety.

Based on the description above, it can be seen that the method used by A. B. Cust in overcoming his anxiety is to share his problems with others. Although, at first, he tries to hold it in himself, it is an inappropriate way to deal with anxious feelings because it would only make the stress continue to accumulate. By telling others, it will help in relieving the stress that is pressuring you so that you can be calmer in facing problems.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Conclusions

Based on the analysis of the character of Alexander Bonaparte Cust, the study found that the anxiety experienced by Alexander Bonaparte Cust is described through the physical symptoms shown by A. B. Cust and also through his behavior. Then Alexander Bonaparte Cust is also described as experiencing anxiety caused by several things, such as the news of the serial killer and people's judgment of him. Lastly, the study also found that Alexander Bonaparte Cust deals with his anxiety in two ways. The first is that he only tries to withstand the stress he feels. The second is A. B. Cust, who can no longer hold back his anxiety, finally tells the real truth to Hercule Poirot to make himself relieved.

In the novel, the anxiety experienced by Alexander Bonaparte Cust is described through the physical symptoms that A. B. Cust showed and his behavior. There are several physical symptoms that A. B. Cust showed, such as a trembling body, an unenthusiastic body, and dazed walking. Apart from that, A. B. Cust's anxiety is also described through some of the behaviors he exhibits. Some behaviors shown by A. B. Cust are excessive fear, agitation, insecurities, and cautious.

Alexander Bonaparte Cust describes experiencing anxiety. Several factors cause his anxiety, the first is the news of the serial killer, and the second is

people's judgment. He became very uneasy knowing that all the evidence from the serial murder case matched Alexander Bonaparte Cust's description, starting from the name, alibi, and even the evidence of the murders on him.

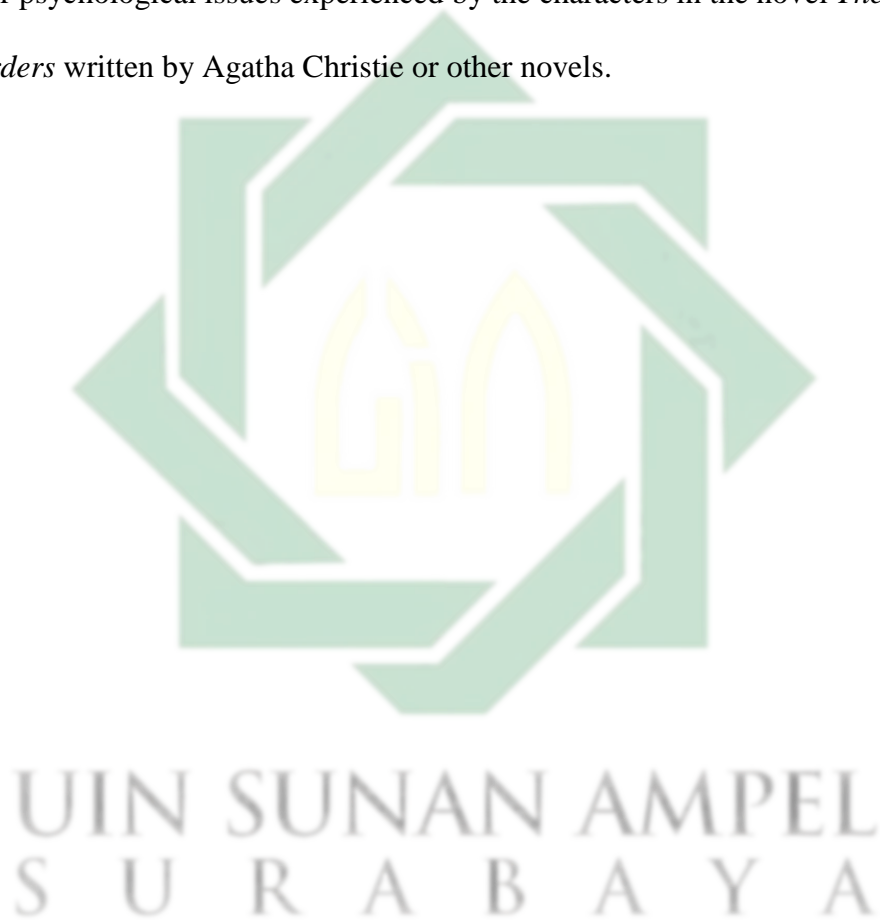
To overcome his anxiety, A. B. Cust makes efforts to calm himself. There are two ways in which A. B. Cust overcomes his anxiety; he holds himself back and tells others about his problems. At first, A. B. Cust feels he cannot tell others about what has happened and can only endure his stress. Because he keeps holding back in the end, his stress keeps piling up to the point where he can no longer hold it in. When he could no longer hold back his stress, A. B. Cust uses the second method: telling the whole truth to another person, Hercule Poirot. When he tells the truth, it makes the stress he feels disappear gradually and heals his anxiety.

According to those analyses, it can be concluded that the cause of the anxiety that A. B. Cust is experiencing is primarily due to people's judgment. The judgment received by A. B. Cust becomes a burden for him and makes him very stressed. The stress that keeps piling up makes it difficult for A. B. Cust to handle it and causes anxiety within A. B. Cust. Furthermore, the effort shown by A. B. Cust in overcoming his anxiety by telling others about his problems shows the effort that can be used when someone experiencing anxiety.

5.2 Suggestions

Based on the analysis of the study that analyzes the psychological issue in Agatha Christie's Novel entitled *The A. B. C. Murders*, the researcher hopes it can

be helpful for future research. The researchers hope that the results of this study can serve as valuable references for other researchers when they do further research related to psychological issues, especially anxiety. Due to the limitations of this study, the study suggests that in the future, other researchers will analyze other psychological issues experienced by the characters in the novel *The A. B. C. Murders* written by Agatha Christie or other novels.



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