



**CADENCE'S DEFENSE MECHANISM IN RECOVERING HER  
LOST MEMORY IN *WE WERE LIARS* BY E. LOCKHART**

**A THESIS**

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for  
The Bachelor Degree Majoring Literature in English Department  
Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University**

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## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

The writer honestly confirms that she compiles this thesis by herself and without taking any results from other researchers in S-1, S-2, S-3, and in diploma degree of any university. The writer also ascertains that she does not quote any material from other publications or someone's paper except from the references mentioned.

Semarang, December 2017

Megalistha Pratiwi Soegijono

## MOTTO AND DEDICATION

*"God helps those who cannot help themselves."*

**Charles Spurgeon**

*I proudly dedicate this thesis to my beloved family and friends, who give me the endless love and support to accomplish this paper.*

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Semarang, December 2017

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## **ABSTRACT**

In this study, the writer analyzes a novel by E. Lockhart entitled *We Were Liars* focusing on the main character named Cadence Sinclair, who lost her memory after having an accident. The aim of this study is to explain and analyze how defense mechanism that is appeared in Cadence could help recovering her memory. The writer uses psychology of literature approach. The theory that will be used is psychoanalytic theory to analyze defense mechanism that is applied by Cadence. The writer uses library research in collecting the data to support the analysis. From this study, defense mechanism helps to protect Cadence after dealing with the accident, and it also helps her to recover her memory. Sublimation, repression and fantasy are three types of defense mechanism that are found in this analysis.

Keywords: psychology of literature approach , defense mechanism, recover.

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Literature has become a fundamental feature to entertain society since ages. It expands human knowledge through its entertaining ways. Literature has three main genres; poetry, prose and drama. Rene Wellek and Austin Warren once stated in *Theory of Literature* that literature is drawn as a social institution. A social creation through language which could reflect life as a big picture of life itself, or a small view about one's personal storyline that could be said as the imitation. In prose, there is novel which is used as the mediator to deliver the author's opinion or observation about some events that are revolved around him. Kennedy and Gioia stated that "A novel is a book-length story in prose, whose author tries to create the sense that while we read, we experience actual life" (2007: 275). The definition explains that a novel could affect the readers senses, so they would get the similar impression as in real life.

To discuss the story in the novel, it can use several approaches according to which point of view it wants to be examined; one of them is psychology of literature approach. Through this approach, there is psychoanalytic theory that studies human's personality. It could be applied to the character in the novel because its activity is similar to human being. In *A Primer of Freudian Psychology*, Hall stated that

"One of the obvious facts about personality is that it constantly changing and developing. The facts that it is always changing and developing are

also applicable to the characters in fictional story, although it can be found in limited areas” (Hall, 1956: 72).

The writer of this study is interested in learning about the psychological aspect of Cadence as the main character in the novel *We Were Liars* focused on her defense mechanisms. She has a memory loss after the accident in Cadence’s family private island. Based on the condition, this study is entitled “Cadence’s Defense Mechanism in Recovering Her Lost Memory in *We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart”.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

There are some questions which are raised to analyze Cadence as the main character. The way she deals with her problem is appealing as an analysis for this study. However, there are two main questions related to the topic that will be answered later in the discussion.

1. How is Cadence’s behavior in recovering her memory in the novel?
2. How is defense mechanism used to recover her memory in the novel?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

Based on the research problems above, objectives of this study are:

1. To explain Cadence’s behavior to solve her problems in the novel.
2. To explain defense mechanism that is used by Cadence to find her loss memory.

#### **1.4 Methods of the Study**

Method of the study is a way of finding out, developing, examining the truth of knowledge based on available facts and data. This study uses library research and psychology of literature approach to explain the problems. According to Wellek and Werren in *Theory of Literature*,

“Since the majority of students can find their source materials in libraries, a knowledge of the most important libraries, and familiarity with their catalogues as well as other reference book, is undoubtedly in many ways, an important equipment of almost every student in literature.” (1977: 58)

Through library research, the information, the data and the theories are easily gained in order to analyze, explain and solve this study. Meanwhile, to analyze the main character’s defense mechanism, this thesis will be analyzed using psychoanalytic theory by Sigmud Freud.

#### **1.5 Organization of the Writing**

##### **CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

This chapter contains six sub-chapters which are background of the study, research problems, objectives of the study, methods of the study, previous study and organization of the writing.

##### **CHAPTER II THE AUTHOR AND HER WORK**

This chapter explains the biography of E. Lockhart and the summary of *We Were Liars*. This chapter can give information about the plot, conflict and character of the story.

##### **CHAPTER III THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK**

This third chapter contains of two sub-chapters which are intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the novel. The first part is the intrinsic elements, there will be character, plot, conflict and setting. It explains about the theory of intrinsic elements in the novel. The second part is extrinsic elements of the novel. It explains about the theory used in analyzing the novel.

#### **CHAPTER IV ANALYSIS**

This fourth chapter consists of the writer's analysis to answer the research questions that are mentioned in chapter 1. The analysis will use the theory that is discussed in chapter 3.

#### **CHAPTER V CONCLUSION**

This chapter contains summary and statement that conclude the study after discussing the novel.

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

## CHAPTER 2

### THE AUTHOR AND HER WORK

#### 2.1 Biography of E. Lockhart

According to E. Lockhart's official autobiography website, E. Lockhart is the pen name of Emily Jenkins, and she is an American writer. She is a writer of children's picture books, young adult novels, and adult fiction. She was born in New York City, September 13, 1967. Lockhart spent her high school by attending summer drama school in Northwestern University and the Children's Theater Company in Minneapolis. Lockhart has a doctorate in English literature from Columbia University, and her field was 19th-century British Novel. She is currently teaching Creative Writing at Hamline University's low-residency MFA program in Writing for Children.

E. Lockhart writes some books, such as *We Were Liars*, *Fly on the Wall*, *Dramaramha*, *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks* and also the *Ruby Oliver quartet: The Boyfriend List*, *The Boy Book*, *The Treasure Map of Boys*, and *Real Live Boyfriends*. Lauren Myracle, Sarah Mlynowski and her was collaborating in writing a book titled *How to Be Bad*.

One of her books, *The Disreputable History*, achieved a Printz Award honor book, became a finalist for the National Book Award, and became recipient of the Cybils Award for best young adult novel. New York Times bestseller is won by *We Were Liars* novel. It also won the Goodreads Choice Award and was

Amazon's #1 YA novel of 2014, as cited from E. Lockhart's website, accessed on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 (<http://www.emilylockhart.com/>).

## **2.2 Synopsis of *We Were Liars***

*We Were Liars* is a novel that tells a story about a girl named Cadence Sinclair who lost her memory after having an accident. She tried to get her memory back because she was not comfortable with her current condition. It felt like things were hidden from her after the accident.

Cadence Sinclair Eastman was the only child, and she was the first granddaughter of Sinclair family. She came from a well-to-do family, but she was not spoiled. The only thing that she owned by herself was a library card even though she could own other expensive things. She was a strong pretty blond girl, but she did not look like that after the accident. Cadence chose to dye her hair black, and she felt weak and sick.

The Sinclair family was led by Harris Sinclair who married to Tipper Taft. They had three daughters, Carrie, Bess and Penny. Each of the three daughters had children who were Johnny, Will, Mirren, Liberty, Bonnie, Taft and Cadence. Sinclair family was a regarded rich family. The family even owned a private island named Benchwood Island. In this private island, Cadence and the family always spent their summer holiday together. Moreover, the family also possessed lands, houses that were spreaded in several places.

Amongst the cousins, Mirren and Johnny were the closest to Cadence because they were around the same age. There was also Gat, an Indian boy, who was introduced by Carrie's boyfriend in summer eight. These teenagers were later



known as the Liars. They always spent time together every summer holiday, planned pleasing activities and sharing about their life when they were not together. Each of the Liars' members had something to share with Cadence. Mirren as the only female was always sharing things about girl's stuffs while Johnny and Gat helped the girls in understanding about boy's stuffs. This became one of the reasons why Cadence was gladly await spending summer holiday because Cadence and Gat never met each other except on the Benchwood Island, so summer holiday was the right time to meet up.

Each summer holiday brought its own story. In this summer, Cadence had to accept the divorce of her parents, and she also had to experience mournful accident which was consequence in her losing memory. When her father left the family, she felt alone, ashamed and thought that she was not loved anymore. Her mother was command not to talk over the divorce made her keeping the feelings by herself. In this situation, she needed support from the loved ones. Those who could ease her sadness were the Liars because as the only child, she sought for companionship.

Harris claimed that his family was a prominent family with all the possessions. He felt powerful, so he always tried to control his family. What Harris did triggered aversion toward him within the family, the daughters and the grand-children. Later, this situation was getting worst after the death of Tipper. The mothers were competing with each other over grand-mother's possessions and grand-father's inheritance. This situation led the mothers forcing the children, Cadence and her cousins, to do the same, competing each other. Cadence and her

cousins were asked to brag about things that would please their grand-father. Cadence and her cousins did not like the idea of bragging about their grand-father inheritance because it would only ruin their family bond, so they were thinking about stopping the fight. These teenagers were planning to burn down Clairmont, one of the stunning houses in the Bechwood island, which was fought by their parents. They wanted to burn down the house because it was the biggest house on the island, it collected the data and paperwork of grand-father's inheritance, and it contained grand-mother's possessions that had been fighting over. They thought burning down the house may reduce the conflict.

Unfortunately, the plan did not run smoothly, so it caused the death of Mirren, Johnny and Gat. They were burnt inside the house. Cadence, the only one who survived, got injured. Candence lost her memory right after the accident. The doctor asked her mother to let Candence recall the memory by herself and to take lots of rest because the healing must be gradual. While her mother tried to protect Cadence by avoiding her to spend the next summer holiday on the island because she thought it would give bad impact to her, Cadence insisted to go there in order to remember the accident.

The Sinclair family was a unique one. When someone in the family passed away or no longer lived with them, they would not discuss the person anymore. They would not remind people of a loss because they thought that "silence is a protective coating over pain". Because of this habit of the family, when Candence come to the island, she had no idea about her cousins' death. For the last two summer holiday, she thought that she lost contact with the cousins and Gat. She

tried to reach them, but it seemed useful. Aside from remembering the accident, Cadence wanted to meet the Liars to enquire why they did not reply to her messages and calls. That was why she begged her mother, so she could spend the seventeenth summer holiday on Benchwood Island.

As soon as Cadence reached the island, she was surprised by several changes like the way her mother and her aunts treated each other. They seemed intimate than before. Even before the accident, she never saw this warm situation. Cadence also found out that Clairmont was renovated, but she did not imagine that the house would have massive renovation because she had not realize yet about the total mess the accident caused.

During the process of getting her memory back, Cadence wrote stories which were similar to kingdom tales with her own variations. The stories mostly appeared before each of her memories came back, and those stories referred to her Sinclair family and the accident. She finally could meet the Liars without knowing how they are actually dead, but she still could not collect much information from them. The information gradually appeared through their presence who accompanied her during the summer holiday. What Cadence creates is actually her self-defense to encounter her problem. Cadence's defense mechanism is not a harmful thing for her, however it helps her to recover her memory (Lockhart, E. 2014. *We Were Liars*. United States: Delacorte Press).

## CHAPTER 3

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

#### 3.1 Intrinsic Elements

Intrinsic elements are used to give several information contained in the story which support the story. Intrinsic elements of literature consist of theme, character, plot, setting, conflict and so on. In this study, the intrinsic elements will be focused on character, plot, conflict and setting.

##### 3.1.1 Character

Character is one of the intrinsic elements appearing in the novel that holds important role in the story. It takes a role as a representation of human being in a literary work, but its image is not only limited as a human being. Animals, vehicles, and any other things can also be used as a character within the story. Character can be a figure who is always told and appeared, or it is just mentioned by another figure that has the specific explanations.

According to *Elements of Literature* written by Potter,

“Character is used not to refer to a person in literary work but what he is like. It generally refers to his whole nature - his personality, his attitude toward life, his “spiritual” qualities, his intelligence, even his physical build as well as his moral attitude” (Potter, 1967: 1).

Character is not only about someone’s presence in the novel but also about the whole aspects in the person , such as the personality, the action, the intelligence, the moral value and the physical appearance. To understand the character in the

story, the readers could evaluate its words or actions. This is the same way to understand people around.

Potter states that character can be classified into two, protagonist and antagonist. The protagonist is the main focus character in the story. He or she will lead the action of the story, so the story mostly relates to his/her life (1967: 70). According to *A Handbook to Literature*, the protagonist is an important figure in the story who is able to steal the reader's attention and empathy through the heroic or despicable storyline (Holman, 1960: 355). Potter also states that the antagonist performs as the opponent of the protagonist, so it becomes the second important character. The existence of the opposing point of view between protagonist and antagonist sets strain situation which creates conflict.

Character is an essential part of the story. It connects plot, theme, setting, conflict, and the other elements in the story. Character as a bearer helps the readers to acknowledge message and morality inside the story.

### **3.1.2 Conflicts**

Conflict is like a season inside the story. It describes the problem which appears in the story and makes the story more interesting. According to Holman in *A Handbook to Literature*, conflict is "...the struggle which grows out of the interplay of the two opposing forces in plot. It is conflict which provides the elements of interest and suspense in any form of fiction." (Holman, 1960: 105). From the explanation, conflict is caused by different perspectives from two or more different sides, so it becomes an important part of the story. It leads the story

to create its plot twist, so the story becomes more interesting. Robert and Jacobs also state in *Literature: An Introduction to Reading and Writing, Fifth Edition* that conflict is "...the controlling impulse in a connected pattern of causes and effects is conflict, which refers to people or circumstances a character must face and try to overcome" (1998: 105). Different perspectives allow conflict to be a controller of the situation which is connected to the other situation. Because of its connection, it forms plot, so the whole story can be understood. Conflict helps the characters in the story to develop themselves dealing with the situation to reveal who they really are. Whether the characters can survive or not is a decision made by themselves to solve the problems.

There are two kinds of conflict, internal and external conflict according to *The Bedford Introduction to Literature* written by Meyer. The first is internal conflict which comes within the character. It contains some moral or psychological issue that can only be determined by the character itself, specifically the protagonist (Meyer, 1976: 45). This explains that the conflict creates by the character himself. He is the one who actually understands what is happening within himself which is totally different with external conflict.

Later, Meyer states about external conflict that,

"The protagonist's physical struggles with a formidable foe or the ever-present dangers of a dense jungle echoing wild screams provide plenty of excite. It may place the protagonist in opposition to another individual, nature, or society" (Meyer, 1976: 45).

From the quotation above, it explains that external conflict comes from the outside. The external conflict lets other persons, things or situations against the

character. The disagreement between the character toward his opponents will show pressure which later provides a thrill story-line. Each pressure sprinkles different season to the story. The good story is better having two kinds of conflict, so it will bring an excitement to the readers when the conflict served is enjoyable.

### **3.1.3 Setting**

Setting is a background of a story which can help the readers to understand where, when, and the social living of the story. There are three majors of setting which are time, place and social environment. These elements build the surrounding which the characters are living (Meyer, 1967: 107). Through these major elements, the story is easy to understand because it helps the readers to understand the situation inside the story better with vivid explanation. Josephine F. Ablamsky in *Emphasis on Elements of Fiction For Better Reading Comprehension* states that setting is a vital element in fiction because it plays four major roles. Setting creates reasonable story, it becomes the background of the of conflicts, it encourages the reader's mood to create an suitable atmosphere, and it helps the characters in a story to expand its characterization (1983:45).

Kennedy and Gioia in *An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama* explain that there are three kinds of setting which are setting of place, setting of time and setting of society. Talking about setting of place, it means where the story takes place. "...the idea of setting includes the physical environment of a story: a house, a street, a city, a landscape, a region" (2007: 112). To understand when the story happens, setting of time is in charge.

“But besides place, setting may crucially involve the time of the story-hour, year, or century. It might matter greatly that a story takes place at dawn, or on the day of the first moon landing” (2007: 112).

Meanwhile, setting of society focuses on the condition of the society, culture, tradition, community in where the story takes place. These kinds of setting help the reader to imagine the situation in the story.

### **3.2 Extrinsic Elements**

Extrinsic elements can influence a literary work. In E. Lockhart's *We Were Liars*, the writer will discuss one of the aspects that gives contribution to enrich the story which is psychological aspect. This study will focus on defense mechanism which is Sigmund Freud's theory.

#### **3.2.1 The Organization of Personality**

There are three major systems of personality that is organized according to Freud which is known as the organization of personality. There are the *id*, the *ego* and the *superego*. The organization of personality helps people to serve their basic needs and desires. Its presence keeps the mentality going steady. If its presence is balanced, it creates a healthy individual that also affects the healthy surroundings. On the contrary, if it is not balanced, it will affect the mental health of a person. The desires might think that the situation does not match its expectation. As we know that human being's basic longing is to fulfill his own pleasure, when this basic longing cannot be fulfilled, it could irritate someone's desires (Hall, 1956: 22). To stabilize an individual's mental, the healthy organization of personality is needed.



### 3.2.1.1 Id

The *id* is located in the unconscious because it is not connected with the reality. According to Freud in Hall's *A Primer of Freudian Psychology* "The *id* is the primary source of psychic energy and the seat of the instincts" (Hall, 1956: 26). It becomes the base of personality which carries the psychic energy. The *id* main focus is to serve the basic needs and desires as explained through Hall's that

"The sole function of the *id* is to provide for the immediate discharge of quantities of excitation (energy or tension) that are released in the organism by internal or external stimulation" (Hall, 1956: 22).

The *Id* focuses on reducing the tension to abstain the pain which has to actualize its needs as soon as possible, so it can achieve the excitement within itself. From its condition, it is called as the *pleasure principle* (Hall, 1956: 22).

As mentioned above, we can conclude that thinking does not support the *id* because the *id* is working based on desires. "The *id* is not governed by laws of reason or logic, and it does not possess values, ethics, or morality" (Hall, 1956: 26). When the *id* wants what it wants, it must be satisfied instantly. It contradicts to social rules because it is where the real portrait of selfishness, greed, rudeness and self-centeredness of human-being exist. Therefore, the *id* needs to soothe its desires through primary process, so it can avoid any high-risk and inappropriate compulsion. Primary process which works as a compulsion replacement to relief the tension and anxiety creates a mental image, a figure of desired object. A mental image is formed through previous insight about a figure that is brought

when we try to remember it. An example, when one is hungry, one will create a mental image of specific food that one wants to eat before one get it. This process is called wish-fulfillment (Hall, 1956: 22-26). However, the primary process has its own limitation. It cannot differentiate reality and fantasy, and it happens in a short period of time. When the time is expired, the tension will return.

### **3.2.1.2 Ego**

The ego appears as a restraint to control the *id* with the external world, if the *id* works to achieve its own pleasure. As a restraint, the ego does not attempt to completely eliminate energy and tension, but it guides the *id* to express its desire properly. It knows when to satisfy the needs and how to release the compulsion in the right times, places and objects. The ego uses rationality to proceed rather than instinct.

“In the well-adjusted person the ego is the executive of the personality, controlling and governing the *id* and the superego and maintaining commerce with the external world in the interest of the total personality and its far-flung needs” (Hall, 1956: 28).

According to the quotation above, the ego has ability to contact the external world therefore it becomes a manager toward the personality. Its ability can control balancing the desires from the *id* to deal with restriction from reality and superego. In *Psychology*, it is told that the ego is under the authority of the *reality principle* which operates according to what is tolerable and proper in order to delay instant needs, and it still aims to get pleasure (Schacter, 2009: 464). This is the part of the mind where the activity of thinking, planning, problem solving and deciding are made, or in other words is a secondary process (Hall, 1956:29). A

secondary process helps the ego to distinguish reality and fantasy. An example, one is hungry during the class, and the *id* demands to satisfy the hunger. The ego through secondary process will hold the urge, and one will imagine what one wants to eat after the class. As soon as the class has ended, one finds the way to get the meal.

### 3.2.1.3 Superego

The third part of personality is the superego. It has known as the moral part of the personality. Two parts that build up the superego are the *ego-ideal* and the *conscience*. As explained in *Theories of Personality*, during childhood period, the idea of right or wrong is formed through rewards and punishments perception that the parents set down to the children. The *ego-ideal* is formed from proper behavior the children have done whereas *conscience* is formed from improper behavior (Schultz, 2009: 51).

The ego is being realistic to satisfy the *id*'s needs, and it does not depend on what seems right or wrong as long as it seems ideal to itself. This might cause broken rules, untruth words and others possibilities that could cause chaos in society.

“The third major institution of personality, the superego, is the moral or judicial branch of personality. It represents the ideal rather than the real, and it strives for perfection rather than for reality or pleasure. The superego is a person's moral code. It develops out of the ego as a consequence of the child's assimilation of his parents' standards regarding what is good and virtuous and what is bad and sinful” (Hall, 1956: 31).

From Hall's explanation, the superego appears as a restraint for the ego to advocate what one's should do in accordance with parents' standards. Its presence

helps one to set standards that guide behaviors and thoughts and to recognize whether the acts can be accepted or not in society. Guilty comes when one does something wrong, and pride comes when one meets the standards.

### **3.2.2 Defense Mechanism**

The id, the ego and the superego are finding their own way to play their role according to the organization of personality. This condition could create conflict between these three personalities because each of them tries to raise tensions or anxiety. “The defense mechanisms of the ego are irrational ways of dealing with anxiety because they distort, hide or deny reality and hinder psychological development” (Hall, 1956: 96). From Hall’s explanation self-defense mechanism is irrational methods doing by the ego to reduce the tensions or anxiety. The irrational methods happen unconsciously within a person.

Anxiety becomes a threat to the ego, so it should be diminished. Defense mechanism is a strategy to press demands from the id and to oppose the superego (Schultz, 2009: 52). Therefore, defense mechanism is needed to help the id and the superego that try to dominate the individual in order to escape from the reality. Facing bad experience in the past could lead the individual to build his own boundaries. The individual wants to comfort himself and to find the solution to overcome the tension through defense mechanism. As stated above that defense mechanism works unconsciously, it keeps a person to consciously be aware of their actions. When defense mechanism cannot fulfill its function, it can cause mental disorder. There are some kinds of defense mechanism, but there will only

three defense mechanisms that will be discussed more specific which are repression, sublimation and fantasy.

### **3.2.2.1 Repression**

Repression is a basic defense mechanism because it is included in the other defense mechanisms. Repression guides the unacceptable thoughts, feelings and impulses to exit the consciousness into the unconscious part. How repression work is explained in *Theories of Personality*, “Whenever the ego is threatened by undesirable id impulses, it protects itself by repressing those impulses; that is, it forces threatening feelings into unconscious” (Feist, 2008: 35). In the unconscious part of mind, these unacceptable things are repressed into several possibilities. It may be left unchanged, it may be forced by an incomplete form to enter the unconsciousness in which can create anxiety to the individual, or it may be expressed in disguised form that deceive the ego (Feist, 2008: 35). Its work shows its capability in handling the memories of situation or person, and it affects the individual’s physical needs. Repression helps the individual to forget the existence of discomfort things.

When someone fails to remember certain past events or experiences after having miserable situation, they lose their ability to recall their memory. This tendency is called amnesia. Amnesia is an act of self-defense to prevent unacceptable things from entering the conscious part of mind. The memories are repressed to avoid unacceptable things that might cause anxiety to individual. There are two causes of amnesia that are neurological causes and psychogenic

causes. Neurological causes may occur through physical injury, neurological disease or certain drug use, while psychogenic causes occur from mental disorder, post-traumatic stress or psychological defense mechanism ([http://www.human-memory.net/disorders\\_amnesia.html](http://www.human-memory.net/disorders_amnesia.html), November, 29<sup>th</sup> 2017). It is also mentioned in *The Encyclopedic Dictionary of Psychology* that amnesia can be caused by head injury, traumatic event, stroke, administration of certain drugs, and psychological factors (Romano Harre, 1983: 22). The explanation above shows that amnesia is not only limited by physical injury. Amnesia that occurs caused by psychogenic causes is referred to psychogenic amnesia. Psychogenic amnesia is also known as dissociative amnesia, “Dissociative amnesia is the sudden loss of memory for significant personal information. The memory loss is typically for a traumatic specific event or period of time but can involve extended periods (months or years) of a person life” (Schacter, 2009: 510).

From the explanations above, defense mechanism, repression in particular, could be said as one of the reasons the individual suffers amnesia. In this case, the way repression works create amnesia from psychological factor. Amnesia does not eliminate the unacceptable thoughts in total, but it hides them in unconscious part of mind. This process fulfills one of possibilities that repression does in the unconscious part of mind.

### **3.2.2.2 Sublimation**

Sublimation is the product of instinctual force that later is transformed into the constructive activities. According to Rennison in *The Pocket Essential Freud &*

*Psychoanalysis*, “The unconscious mental process by which instinctual, socially unacceptable energy or libido is transferred to a non-instinctual, socially acceptable activity” (Rennison, 2001: 89). Sublimation helps the individual to transfer his/her desires in a positive way. It does not completely omit the desires, otherwise the desires are altered into a form that is acceptable to society. Generally, types of defense mechanisms are profitable to the individual but disadvantageous to the society, but sublimation shows that it can be profitable for both sides. The aggressive desire, for example, is transformed into positive sports such as rugby or boxing that is acceptable rather than causing damage.

### **3.2.2.3 Fantasy**

The individual create images about things that might not certain real in order to relieve the feeling from getting frustrated or caused anxiety. Fantasy lets the unfulfilled desires to change its form into imaged achievement or activity. The day-dreaming person finds that his own fantasy world is better than the real world. Fantasy might offer better world, but it cannot last long. Laplanche explains about fantasy in *The Language of Psycho-Analysis* that “Imaginary scene in which the subject is protagonist, representing the fulfillment of a wish in a manner that is distorted to a greater or lesser extent by defensive processes” (Laplanche: 1988, 314). Fantasy creates imaginary scenes to fulfill its desires. It indicates that fantasy is not a real thing, and it is just a trick inside someone’s mind.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **ANALYSIS**

This chapter contains the answers of the research questions. This chapter is divided into two parts that are the analysis of intrinsic elements and the analysis of extrinsic elements.

#### **4.1 Intrinsic Elements**

In this sub-chapter the intrinsic elements discussed are characters, conflicts and settings.

##### **4.1.1 Characters**

###### **4.1.1.1 The Protagonist**

###### **4.1.1.1.1 Cadence Sinclair**

Cadence Sinclair Eastman, 18 year old girl, is the first female grand-daughter in Sinclair family. She is the only child from her parents. She only lives with her mother, Penny Sinclair because her parents are divorced. Even Cadence comes from a rich family and lives in a grand house, she does not own expensive things on her own.

Cadence explains about her current condition after the accident. “I used to be blond, but now my hair is black. I used to be strong, but now I am weak. I used to be pretty, but now I look sick” (Lockhart, 2014: 4). In this part, Cadence tells about herself, how she is before and after the accident. The accident has changed Cadence’s life which also affects her appereances.



Cadence feels and thinks about things that matter for her too much. When Cadence lost her father, she is trying to show it, but she cannot let it all out because of her mother's order.

“My father put a last suitcase into the backseat of the Mercedes, and started the engine. Then he pulled out a handgun and shot me in the chest. I was standing on the lawn and I fell. The bullet hole opened wide and my heart rolled out of my rib cage and down into a flower bed... Mummy snapped. She said to get hold of myself. Don't cause a scene, she told me” (Lockhart, 2014: 5-6).

The quotation above describes Cadence's feelings when her father leaves. The pain describes as if her father shoots her. It shows her deepest feeling toward one of beloved person in her live.

She is a visionary person. It is clearly shown when she imagines her family will unite again. “We should not let the family part apart. We should not accept an evil we can change. We would stand up against it, would we not? Yes. We should. We would be heroes, even” (Lockhart, 2014: 181). She knows what is wrong inside her family, and she has thought about it, so she plans how to change the situation.

As a visionary person, Cadence becomes a rebellious person too. She becomes a rebel in order to undertake the plan of reuniting the family. She finds out that wrong things would not be changed if there is no action. ““Why didn't you back me with your grandfather? Do you want us to lose the house?” “We don't need it” (Lockhart, 2014: 162). This becomes one example of her disobedient. It is when Penny asks her to tell grand-father about how much they want to keep one of the houses, Windemere, but Cadence refuses to obey her.

#### **4.1.1.2 The Antagonist**

##### **4.1.1.2.1 Harris Sinclair**

Harris Sinclair is the head of household of the Sinclair family that is known as the old money family. He assumes that his family is the best family, even he does not have son. He is an arrogant one. It can be seen from the way he creates thoughts about how Sinclair family has to consider themselves.

“Welcome to the beautiful Sinclair family. No one is a criminal. No one is an addict. No one is a failure. The Sinclairs are athletic, tall, and handsome. We were old-money Democrats... It doesn't matter if trust-fund money is running out; if credit card bills go unpaid on the kitchen counter. We are Sinclairs. No one is needy. No one is wrong. We live, at least in the summertime, on a private island off the coast of Massachusetts” (Lockhart, 2014: 3).

This description comes from Cadence, his grand-daughter. This is what the family get about themselves hereditary. Arrogant is suitable to describe Harris in person. He always shows himself as someone who should be honored. Boasting his family line uses rude words often hurt others, even his own family. His arrogance even makes him disregard his own daughters.

“We Sinclair are a grand, old family. There is something to be proud of. Our traditions and values form the bedrock on which future generation stand. This island is our home... And yet the three of you women, with these divorces, broken homes, this disrespect for tradition, these lack of a work ethic, you have done nothing but disappoint an old an who taught he raised you right” (Lockhart, 2014: 176).

As the old money family, Harris believes that those who is not compatible with his family cannot be fully acceptable. They can mingle with the family, but they cannot be a part of the family. This is indirectly told, and it can be seen from Carrie's relationship with an Indian man named Ed. In the first meeting with Ed, Harris seems very welcome.

““He knows he’s not supposed to be that guy. He’s a Democrat, he voted for Obama – but that doesn’t mean he’s comfortable having people of colour in his beautiful family... He’s fake with us. He doesn’t like the idea of Carrie with us. He doesn’t call Ed *Ed*. He calls him *sir*. And he makes sure I know I’m an outsider, every chance he gets” (Lockhart, 2014: 164-165).

From the quotation above, it explains that Harris is not welcome enough to let the outsider be a part of his family. It is only a camouflage to make others believe that he is a kind person.

Cadence’s Granddad is also known as someone who can control others, and he can use his power and money to manage or even to threaten anything. “So when Granddad said he might leave his money to build Harvard a student center and asked our advice, he wasn’t involving the family in his financial plans. He was making a threat” (Lockhart, 2014: 128). In this part, it can be seen that Granddad has power over his money, what he wants to do depends on him. Granddad knows exactly that he has power, so his daughters and grand-children will put their prospects on him. As the head of the family, he shows his superiority.

#### **4.1.1.2 Penny Sinclair**

Penny Sinclair is Cadence’s mother. A blond, athletic, tall woman who is a breeder of Golden Retrievers. She is living in Burlington, and she possess Windemere house in Beechwood Island. She likes pretty things as what most of Sinclairs like. Her house is filled with beautiful and expensive collection. This becomes a reason why Penny and his sisters are fighting over each other. They want to gain more lavish things for themselves. Penny is afraid that Johnny as the

first grandson will inherit family wealth instead of Cadence. The quotation below describes Penny's concern.

““Just remind him that you care,” said Mummy. “And that you are a good person. Well-rounded and a credit to the family.”... “He’s very impressionable right now,” said Mummy. “He’s suffering. Thinking about the future. You’re the first grandchild.” “Johnny’s only three weeks younger.” “That’s my point. Johnny’s a boy and he’s only three weeks younger. So write the letter” (Lockhart, 2014: 155).

Penny is a widow, she was married a man named Sam Easton. After being left by her husband, she chooses to tilt her chin high, to trash the gifts, and to persuade Cadence not to cause a scene. As Sinclair, she is told not to think over those who are not longer living around her, a resolute one. She applies this to every aspect of loss. “Don’t cause distress, she said. Don’t remind people of a loss. “Do you understand, Cady? Silence is a protective coating over pain” (Lockhart, 2014: 29). This method is kind of acceptable because it helps her and others to move on and act like nothing happen, so they will no longer feel miserable about their past. Sometimes, what she utters will be misunderstood for those who need support.

#### **4.1.1.2.3 The Liars**

The Liars consist of four teenagers. There are Cadence, Mirren, Johnny and Gat. Mirren and Johnny are Sinclair, and Gat is the Sinclair's friend. They are in the same age. The Liars is always spends their summer holiday together since the eight summer.

Mirren Sinclair Sheffield is the only female cousin that at the same age with Cadence. She becomes someone who accompanies Cadence playing girls' stuffs, and she also becomes a good listener for Cadence. “Mirren, she is sugar,

curiosity, and rain” (Lockhart, 2014: 5). Cadence says Mirren is "irritable and bossy. But always funny about it. It was easy to make her mad, and she was nearly always cross with Bess and annoyed with the twins—but then she'd fill with regret, moaning in agony over her own sharp tongue"(Lockhart, 2014: 5). Mirren becomes Cadence’s closest sister.

Jonathan Sinclair Dennis is the older grandson in the Sinclair family, but he is younger than Cadence. Cadence describes Johnny as "bounce, effort, and snark" (Lockhart, 2014: 5), and says, "He refused to be serious, he was infuriatingly unserious, but he was as committed to the things that mattered to him as anyone could possibly be" (Lockhart, 2014: 6).

Gatwick Matthew Patil is an Indian boy. He knows the Sinclair family from the summer eight. His uncle is Johnny’s mother’s boyfriend. Every summer holiday he must join the Sinclair family because Johnny ask him to. Gat becomes a close friend with Johnny. “Skin deep brown, hair black and waving. Body wired with energy. Gat seemed spring-loaded. Like he was searching for something. He was contemplation and enthusiasm. Ambition and strong coffee” (Lockhart, 2014: 5). Gat is different from the Sinclairs because he is not rich, and he is not white. To Cadence and the other members, Gat is beautiful eventhough he is not the same with them. He likes to talk and argue about ideas, films, musics or books. His presence is always waited by the Liars.

## **4.1.2 Conflicts**

### **4.1.2.1 Internal Conflict**

#### **4.1.2.1 Cadence against herself**

Cadence is only fifteen when her parents divorced and the accident happened. As a teenager, it might not be easy for Cadence to be left by the loved ones. The sequence of sorrowful events could probably disturb Cadence emotional stability. She might want to escape from her real life in Burlington, so she gets excited to spend her summer holiday in Beechwood Island. Being left by his father must bring its own loss. “It tasted like salt and failure. The bright red shame of being unloved soaked the grass in front of our house, the bricks of the path, the steps to the porch. My heart spasmed among the peonies like a trout” (Lockhart, 2014: 5). From this quotation, Cadence depicts how losing her father means being unloved, and being unloved is a bitter experience.

Not only being left by her father, she has to deal with the death of the Liars. These sorrowful events put Cadence in a situation where she no longer can handle it. Later, she suffers amnesia after the accident. To lose memory is not what she asks for. It is something beyond her control, and she has to accept that. “I used to ask Mummy when I didn’t remember the rest of summer fifteen. My forgetfulness frightened me. I’d suggest stopping my meds, or trying new meds, or seeing a different physician. I’d beg to know what I’ve forgotten” (Lockhart, 2014: 46). This quotation proves Cadence’s conflict within herself. Even she tries to accept the fact that she cannot remember the rest of summer fifteen which holds the last memory before everything around her seems changed, she also feels uncomfortable with the situation. She has to work hard in order to collect her

memory. Sometimes, she also feels tired whenever she asks others to tell or explain something, but they refuse and tell her to remember it by herself. Cadence inability in remembering frustrates her.

#### **4.1.2.2 *External Conflict***

##### **4.1.2.2.1 Cadence against Penny**

Penny likes to collect and to decorate her house with expensive things. Since Cadence does not interest in pretty things like her mother, she questions her mother's activity as showing off the power her mother gets from having much money. Cadence does not like her mother activity since it turns her mother into a greedy person.

““Here are the pearl earrings Mother promised me.” “The black pearls? She said I could have them.” The aunts began to blur into one another as the days of the summer ticked past. Argument after argument, old injuries were rehashed and threaded through new ones. Variations. “Tell Granddad how much you love the embroidered tablecloths,” Mummy told me. “I don't love them.” “He won't say no to you.” ... “I just don't care about tablecloths.” “So lie. Tell him the ones from the Boston house. The cream ones with the embroidery” (Lockhart, 2014: 156).

The quotation above becomes a proof about how tablecloths could affect Cadence's mother. In order to get what she wants, she tells Cadence to persuade and even to tell lie. These tablecloths and other things could also make her mothers and her sisters fight over them. This behavior cannot be tolerated by Cadence, so it always triggers them to argue against each other.

##### **4.1.2.2.2 Cadence against the Liars**

The Liars are Cadence best companions since the summer eight. Two of them are her cousins, Johnny and Mirren, and her crush, Gat. These teenagers are living

separately, so they always gets excited to plan their summer holiday together. As the only child, spending holiday with these kids brings happiness for Cadence. They like to talk and argue about anything that excite them.

“We never kept in touch over the school year. Not much, anyway, though w’d tried when we were younger. We’d text, or tag each other in summer photos, especially in September, but we’d inevitably fade out after a month or so. Somehow, Beechwood’s magic never carried over into our everyday lives. We didn’t want to hear about school friends and clubs and sport teams. Instead, we knew our affection would revive when we saw one another on the dock following June, salt spray in the air, pair sun glinting off the water” (Lockhart, 2014: 35-36).

After the summer time, they are usually busy again with their own life, and they decide not to share things until the next summer holiday because they will cling into one another once they meet in Beechwood.

The situation goes different after the accident wrenching Cadence memory. She has to face the fact that her life is quite messed up. At summer sixteen, Cadence has Europe trip with his father, so she cannot visit Beechwood Island. She starts missing The Liars, and she tries to reach them by texting or emailing. None of them is replaying her messages.

“I texted Mirren a few times. Called and left her messages that later I was ashamed of, they were so lonely and needy. I called Johnny, too, but his voice mail was full. I decided not to call again. I didn’t want to keep saying things that made me feel weak. When Dad took me to Europe, I knew the Liars were on island.” (Lockhart, 2014: 35-36).

At this point, Cadence needs the Liars, who matter for her, to share what she encounters and feels over a year. Cadence does not realize that the Liars are dead in the accident because of her amnesia. This makes her hoping for their reply, but she ends up dissapointed for no reply.



### **4.1.3 Settings**

#### **4.1.3.1 Setting of Time**

Setting of time in *We Were Liars* are taking part of summer time. This is the season where the students are having the break from schools, and it is the right season for family gathering. In the story, Sinclair family spends summer holiday together on their private island. There are three parts of summer that will frequently appear which are summer fifteen, summer sixteen and summer seventeen. In the beginning of the story, Cadence introduces when her story is started. “My story starts before the accident. June of the summer I was fifteen, my father ran off with some woman he loved more than us” (Lockhart, 2014: 4). In summer fifteen, Cadence and her mother arrange their new life after abandoned by her father, and the rest of summer sixteen and seventeen, Cadence is managing to recover her memory.

#### **4.1.3.2 Setting of Place**

Setting of place in *We Were Liars* mostly takes part on Beechwood Island. Beechwood Island is a private island owned by Sinclair family that is located off the coast of Massachusetts. On the island, there are four large luxury house; Clairmont, Windemere, Red Gate, and Cuddledown. Every summer Sinclairs will spend their time on the island, and they will alternate doing activities in each house.

“The next day, Granddad comes to Burlington to stay in the guest room. He’s been on the island since mid-May and has to take a boat, a car and a plane to get here” (Lockhart, 2014: 51). Another setting of place within the novel is Cadence’s

house in Burlington. This place is where Cadence lives, when she is not in Beechwood.

#### **4.1.3.3 Setting of Society**

Setting of society in *We Were Liars* comes from the rich Sinclair family. The family has Harris Sinclair as their leader. There are three generations in the family. “All the aunts wanted the Boston house. It was a four-million-dollar house, and they grew up in it” (Lockhart, 2014: 98). From this quotation, it proves that the price of the house is expensive which can only be owned by the upper class. The properties that the Sinclairs have become evidence of their wealth, such as private island, houses, and valuable arts.

The family has their own beliefs about their clan that they are the privileged one. “Welcome, once again, to the beautiful Sinclair family... We believe that time heals... Our upper lips are stiff, and it is possible people are curious about us because we do not show them our hearts” (Lockhart, 2014: 38). In this quotation, beautiful does not only mean about their physical appearance, but also about their quality as a privileged family. As a privileged family, they like to be the center of attention. They will not let their secret be known by others because they will hide their feelings, and they enjoy when people are curious about their family story. Harris Sinclair always utters some mottos in life such as, winner does not take the back seat, winner will never say never, and winner does what they are afraid to do. All of these mottos are uttered in order to drive the family members pursuing great achievement in life.

Sinclair family is not used to discuss about those who leave the family, the renounce one or the dead one. “Don’t cause distress, she said. Don’t remind people of a loss. “Do you understand, Cady? Silence is a protective coating over pain” I understood, and I managed to erase Granny Tipper from conversation, the same way I had erased my father” (Lockhart, 2014: 29). This conversation is talking about how silence could hide pain. Two people that are mentioned have different case of leaving. Granny Tipper is dead, and Cadence’s father is divorced from her mother. Even the cases are different, but how to overcome the pain is the same.

The stereotype that man becomes family pride and priority still exist among the family. ““He’s very impressionable right now,” said Mummy. “He’s suffering. Thinking about the future. You’re the first grandchild.” “Johnny’s only three weeks younger.” “That’s my point. Johnny’s a boy and he’s only three weeks younger. So write the letter” (Lockhart, 2014: 155). This is a proof that Cadence’s mother is worried about Johnny who probably could eliminate Cadence as the heiress because he is a male.

## **4.2 Extrinsic Elements**

### **4.2.1 Cadence’s Defense Mechanism**

#### **4.2.1.1 Repression**

In facing problems, it is obvious that problems tend to bother one’s needs, so it creates unpleasant feelings to cope with. Repression appears as an arranger to handle discomfort things from the unpleasant feelings.

Spending summer holiday in Beechwood Island becomes a runaway from her parents' divorce for Cadence, but it does not happen well because she has to cope with another problem during the holiday. There are two hard times during the summer fifteen. First, the fight over her grandfather's possessions within her mother and her aunts, and the fire accident that kills the Liars. In trouble, people mostly want support from the closest ones, and so does Cadence. Leaving her parents' divorced issue in Burlington and enjoying the delight summer with the family, especially the Liars, are a pleasing way to console her.

In fact, the summer does not happen as good as she thinks. The family fights over the inheritance ruins the peaceful summer holiday. The fight in the family attempts Cadence to find how to reconcile the family bond. Later, she persuades the Liars to change the situation.

“I said something about  
 what if  
 what if  
 we could somehow stop being  
 the Beautiful Sinclair Family and just be a family?  
 What if we could stop being  
 different colors, different backgrounds, and just be in love?  
 What if we could force everyone to change?  
 Force them.” (Lockhart, 2014: 180).

The quotation above is between Cadence and Gat when she utters her wish toward the family. Cadence thinks about what if she and the Liars can change the family to behave like a normal family. Then, she and Gat ask Johnny and Mirren to execute the thoughts.

“Gat and I talked to Mirren and Johnny.  
 Convinced them to take action.  
 We told each other

over and over: do what you are afraid to do.  
 We told each other.  
 Over and over, we said it.  
 We told each other  
 we were right.  
 ...

The plan was simple. We would find the spare jugs of gas, the ones kept in the shed for the motorboards. There were newspapers and cardboard in the mudroom: we'd build piles of recycling and soak those in gasoline. We'd soak the wood floors as well. Stand back. Light a paper towel roll and throw it. Easy."

(Lockhart, 2014: 181).

They are planning the fire that Cadence becomes the mastermind of the plan. She puts concern to reconcile her family because she knows the feeling of losing her father. She does not want the others member of the family experience the same thing as she did. The Liars later plan to burn down the main and biggest house that contains many important possessions, which is fought over the parents, the Clairmont.

"The house was cold. It felt like it something that deserved to be destroyed. It was filled with objects over which the aunties fought. Valuable art, china, photographs. All of them fueled family anger" (Lochkhart, 2014: 204).

Clairmont is the biggest house that represents Granddad's wealth, and it becomes a good target to inherit. Cadence and the Liars think that by burning the house, it will reconcile their mothers. As mentioned above, the fight is triggered by all the possessions. When their mothers are competing each other, the Liars find out that catch Granddad attention, as the mothers wish, is not what the Liars want to do or see. This becomes the reason why the Liars keep doing the plan.

At the end, the plan does not happen as expected because the fire set previously cannot be controlled. The fire quickly spreads to the entire house and burns the way out. Gat, Mirren and Johnny stuck in the burning house. The only person who survives the fire is Cadence. She can escape the burning house because she is the one who stays close to the way out. She actually has tried to help the others, but the fire does not allow her to enter the other parts of the house. This situation forces her to save herself first. This becomes the pressure moment for Cadence when she realize that instead of being a heroine, she kills the Liars.

“I wanted so much for us: a life free of constriction and prejudice. A life free love and be loved. And here, I have killed them. My Liars, my darlings. Killed them. My Mirren, my Johnny, my Gat” (Lockhart, 2014: 208).

She feels guilty for killing them, and blames herself. To know the fact is a kind of hard pressure for her, which her mind unconsciously tries to get rid of it. From this situation, the frustration or nightmare might appear as the aftermath. Generally, someone who blames herself as the trigger of an accident will carry burdens within oneself. It is the thoughts about how one can make peace with oneself, and how one can face the judgement from the surrounding after doing such a horrible accident. This situation brings discomfort that Cadence wants to eliminate.

To cope with the uncomfortable situation, unconsciously Cadence’s self-defence appears. The memory is repressed to the unconscious part of mind, which creates amnesia. Cadence self-defence builds the opportunity to protect herself from the traumatic event.

“Her burns healed quickly but she exhibit selective amnesia regarding the events of the previous summer. Doctors presumed her crippling migraine

headaches were caused by unacknowledged grief and guilt. She was heavily medicated and extremely fragile both physically and mentally” (Lockhart, 2014: 202).

Cadence wakes up and forgets the tremendous disaster she has caused. Defense mechanism works in this way to help Cadence overcome her unpleasant feelings toward the accident by repressed her memory. It keeps her to continue her life without being haunted by the memory of the accident.

#### **4.2.1.1 Sublimation**

Sublimation appears when one tries to transform the desires which might become destructive in a positive activity. Cadence releases her regrets through composing stories. It becomes her way to express the disappointments toward her current situation.

After the accident, Cadence has no friends to share her feelings about her life, how she has to deal with her parents’ divorced, the fight and the memory loss. The only one she has is her mother, but their relationship is not in a good condition, so sharing her pain is not an option.

“It is hardly glamorous the way Mummy and I quarrel now that Dad is gone. I wake to find her standing in my bedroom doorway, staring.

“Don’t hover.”

“I love you. I’m taking care of you,” she says, her hand on her heart.

“Well, stop it.”

If could shut my door on her, I would. But I cannot stand up.” (Lockhart, 2014: 38).

The quotation above depicts Cadence’s reaction toward her mother, the way she rejects her mother attention, and they have argument after being left by her father. Started from this situation where Cadence thinks that she has no one to

share. Cadence consciously wants to remember the accident. The ego of Cadence that makes all the repressed memory in unconscious part of mind wants to come up. To remember things, defense mechanism tries one of the way out which is sublimation. Sublimation appears in a form of making stories. Through making stories, the repressed memory unconsciously drives out bit by bit.

Before this, Cadence never writes stories. After the accident, her defense mechanism unconsciously drives Cadence to create some stories, and it becomes Cadence's behavior toward her current condition. It happens right after she comes back from her summer holiday in Europe.

“Since I got back from Europe, I have been writing some of my own. Variations. I have time on my hands, so let me tell you a story. A variation, I am saying, of a story you have heard before.” (Lockhart, 2014: 38).

This quotation can identify when Cadence defense mechanism, which is sublimation, appears. She tells us about when she starts her writing activity. It is after the summer sixteen in Europe. She goes to Europe because her parents think it might be good to her recovery post the accident. It actually does not help her, instead it makes her feels isolated because she really prefers to spend time with the loved ones. Back from the holiday, Cadence still has to stay home, so as mentioned above she gets time to write some stories. Cadence expresses her disappointments through these stories. She does not protest in a destructive way, instead she transforms it into positive form.

“The maiden befriend the beautiful children. She kissed them on boat rides and brought them fudge and told them stories. Then she gave them a box of matches. The children were entranced, for at nearly sixteen they had



never seen fire, go on, strike, said the witch, smiling. Fire is beautiful. Nothing bad will happen. Go on, she said, the flames will cleanse your souls. Go on, she said, for you are independent thinkers. Go on, she said. What is this life we lead, if you do not take action? And they listened. They took the matches from her and they struck them. The witch watched their beauty burn, their bounce, their intelligence, their wit, their open hearts, their charm, their dreams for the future. She watched it all disappear in smoke.” (Lockhart, 2014: 198).

This is a part of Cadence’s story. The story is about the witch and the king’s three beautiful children. The story is actually the form of sublimation. Cadence blames herself for persuading and letting the Liars die in the accident. It happens because she persuades them to join her plan. She feels like the witch who gives the matches to the children who are depicted from the Liars. She has no one to share her deepest secret, so through the story she can release her guilty feeling. Although she blames herself, sublimation controls her to express it in a good way. Still, the repressed memory does not fully come up. Then, another kind of defense mechanism unconsciously appears in another form.

#### **4.2.1.1 Fantasy**

When Cadence deals with her amnesia, she needs support from her surroundings, especially the closest ones. In this case, the closest ones are Mirren, Gat and Johnny. Fantasy appears as Cadence expression to fulfill her desires meeting the Liars.

During the time of losing her memory, Cadence is not informed that the Liars were dead. Her family conceives a concept not to keep remembering things or people which are no longer exist in their life. The doctor also suggests the family

to let Cadence remember the accident by herself. Therefore, during the time she cannot spend on the island, Cadence thinks the Liars are still alive.

Fantasy is experienced by Cadence after summer sixteen. Habitually, every summer holiday is spent together with the Liars, but it is not the same for the summer sixteen. Due to Cadence's healing period, she is arranged to have a holiday with her father in Europe in summer sixteen. The change of habitual pattern makes Cadence miss the Liars. She does not like her holiday in Europe, so she keeps trying to reach the Liars.

"I miss the Liars that summer... I texted Mirren a few times. Called and left messages that later I was ashamed of, they were so lonely and needy. I called Johnny, too, but his voice mail was full. I decided not to call again. I didn't want to keep saying things that made me feel weak. When dad took me to Europe, I knew the Liars were on island" (Lockhart, 2014: 36).

From this quotation, it is clearly told that Cadence miss the Liars when she cannot attend the summer holiday with them. As previously mentioned that Cadence does not know about the Liars current condition, she is pretty sure that the Liars are together.

There is a new behavior that Cadence shows after the European trip. She starts giving away her possessions. Some of them are previously asked by the Liars.

"The fall after the European trip, I started a project. I give away something of mine every day. I mailed Mirren an old Barbie with extra-long hair, one we used to fight over when we were kids. I mailed Johnny a striped scarf I used to wear a lot. Johnny likes stripes" (Lockhart, 2014: 36).

Later, she sends messages to the Liars in order to let them know that she wants to give her stuffs. She thinks about the unnecessary stuffs that are better given away,

and this might attract the Liars, so they will reach her back. This way cannot also make the Liars contact her. Not only for the Liars, Cadence also gives away her possessions to a homeless girl, to the public library, and to the Goodwill industries. She thinks that it is better to give away the stuffs which can be useful to other instead of keeping the unnecessary things by herself.

During this summer, Cadence has to endure her feeling towards the Liars. It can be seen from the sentence “I didn’t want to keep saying things that made me feel weak”. Even she needs the Liars, she holds herself to beg their attention. She is filled with the confusion why the Liars do not respond her, which makes her keep thinking of them, and it makes her miss them even more. This situation shapes her thought that the Liars are still alive.

The confusion must fill Cadence from the summer sixteen through summer seventeen. Fantasy is shown by Cadence in summer seventeen where she finally can persuade her mother to go to the Beechwood Island.

“She turns the boat toward the shore and suddenly I can see my Liars waiting, not on the dock but by the weathered wooden fence that runs along the perimeter path” (Lockhart, 2014: 64).

This quotation is a proof that Cadence’s fantasy appears in summer seventeen when she reaches the island. The Liars do not wait on the dock because they are only an image that only exists in Cadence mind. Fantasy is unconsciously formed after she endures the days where she cannot communicate with the Liars. Her fantasy appears once she reaches the island because it is where Cadence’s memories about the Liars are mostly happened.

There is another proof that Cadence performs fantasy. “As usual, no one is visible at Cuddledown until my feet make sounds on the steps. Then Johnny appears at the door, stepping gingerly over the crushed glass.” (Lockhart, 2014: 64). In this part, Cadence describes that the Liars will not be visible at the house if Cadence is not there. Cuddledown itself is one of the houses on the island that is rarely visited after the accident.

Cadence’s memory slowly regains when she is on the island. Defense mechanism contributes a big step toward her progress. Fantasy does not only help Cadence to meet the Liars, but it also helps her to release her guilty and anxiety toward what she did in the past.

““Yes, Alice came and got her, but you won’t leave, and finally she had to go without you. Granddad took off for the mainland. And then we decided about the fire.”

“We planned it out,” I say.

“We did. We convinced Bess to take the big boat and all the littles to see a movie on the Vineyard.”

As Johnny talks, the memories form. I fill in details he hasn’t spoken aloud. “”(Lockhart, 2014: 177).

The conversation above is between Cadence and Johnny. From this, Johnny, one of the Liars’ members, is talking about what happened before they set the fire. This becomes a proof that Cadence’s fantasy is slowly helping her to remember the accident. In this way, it does not hurt her. The truth actually comes from herself, but it is formed in her fantasy.

Although Cadence’s self-defense appears to regain her memory, it also works in its way to convince Cadence that the accident is not a hundred percent her fault.

“I look at him. “I’m so, so sorry, my dear old Johnny,” I say, feeling the tears well behind my eyes.

“Not your fault,” says Johnny. “I mean, we all did it, we all went crazy, we have to take responsibility. You shouldn’t carry the weight of it,” he says. “Be sad, be sorry-but don’t shoulder it.” “(Lockhart, 2014: 216).

After getting her memory, the effect of fantasy helps Cadence not to keep blaming herself. Fantasy becomes the final defense mechanism that releases all the repressed memory. After forming fantasy, she finally gains information and memory that she missed. This defense mechanism helps Cadence to continue her life and recover her memory without getting depressed.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **CONCLUSION**

*We Were Liar* is a literary work written by E. Lockhart. This novel is telling a story of a teenage girl named Cadence Sinclair who suffers amnesia after an accident in her family private island. Losing memory does not make Cadence comfortable with her life, so she tries to get her memory back.

By using psychoanalytic theory focuses on defense mechanism, the writer analyzes that defense mechanism unconsciously appears to recover her memory. There are three defense mechanism that help Cadence which are repression, sublimation and fantasy. Repression appears as amnesia. The bad memory of the accident is repressed into the unconscious part of mind. When Cadence tries to find the fact of her amnesia, sublimation as the second defense mechanism appears. It drives Cadence to start writing stories which contain her repressed memory. Bit by bit, the memory comes up within the stories. It helps her to collect the memory gradually. Sublimation itself is not enough, so herself unconsciously forms fantasy which appears as a fulfillment of Cadence's desires to meet the Liars asking about the fact of her amnesia. Through this defense mechanism, fantasy helps Cadence to recover her memory by creating the image of the Liars who are actually dead. During this process, writing stories and giving away her possessions are how Cadence behaves, and it becomes a good behavior because it identifies that Cadence acts well not destructive in solving her problems.

Defense mechanism that works unconsciously in Cadence becomes a helper. It prevents her from getting depressed right after the accident that she caused, and later when Cadence is ready to know the fact, it gradually helps her to recover her memory.

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