

EXPLORING EMMA BOVARY'S DIFFUSED PERSONALITY IN GUSTAVE FLAUBERT'S MADAME BOVARY NOVEL

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to explore Emma's diffused personality in the novel Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert. This study used a qualitative approach. The data collection technique used documentation. The research instrument used the diffusion personality features by Kroger (2005) consisting of 12 features; low levels of autonomy, low level of self-esteem, low level of identity, having no firm identity-defining commitments nor interest in making them, demonstrate the lowest sense of personal continuity over time, difficulties in adapting to an environment, most self-focused, unsystematic approaches to solving problems, high level of neuroticism, high defense-mechanism, high level of external locus of control, and hopeless. Data analysis used content analysis. The research procedure was reading the novel, identifying the characters' behavior, thoughts, words, and action, classifying sentences or phrases that show 12 diffusion features, coding, and verification. The study showed that Emma has the twelve diffused personality features. This study proves that identity status can be detected in literary works.

1. INTRODUCTION

Exploring literary works is challenging in literary research because they are rich in meaning that can be found from its elements such as structure or plot, setting, theme, point of view, and characters called intrinsic elements (Hermawan, 2019; Akbar, 2020; Siahaan, 2017). Numerous studies have focused on these elements specifically to reveal their meanings, whether they are social problems, human life (Hermawan, 2019) or linguistic aspects. One of the most sought-after intrinsic elements to be analyzed is the character element. The presence of characters in a story aims to bring the story to life (Milawasri, 2017). A character is a person made by the authors (Adriana & Rohmah, 2019; Saragih, Widodo, & Wardani, 2019) and appears in literary works such as novels, short stories and or dramas (Rahmah, Mustofa, & Nisa, 2021) and plays role as "persons" (Fitria, 2021) characterized 'human being' (Thamrin & Wargika, 2013).

The effort to display the character' psychologically and physically is called characterization with the intention to bring them alive so that the reader knows the characteristics and their personality (Ifianti & Rahman, 2020; Nursafira, et al., 2019). The characterization is not only the



physical appearance or their traits but also self-identity. Human identity can be categorized from a low level to a high level, which Marcia (1966) called identity status. In fact, without being realized by the reader, the author gives the character's identity status, which can be identified through the character's behavior, interactions, speech, observation, and actions that can provide the details to infer the character's identity (Robert as cited in Thamrin & Wargika, 2013).

Identity status is the categorization of self-identity (Marcia, 1966) and is a state of ego development characterized by the presence or absence of crisis and commitment. A crisis is when individuals are actively involved in determining their work and beliefs. Commitment refers to an individual's level of investment in their job or beliefs (Marcia as cited in Jespersen, Kroger & Martinussen, 2013; Kroger & Marcia, 2011; Kroger, 2005). There are four identity statuses leveled by Marcia (as cited in Tlonaen & Nenotek, 2021) and then Kroger (2005) detailed the features of each identity status. First, *identity achievement*; individuals with achieved identity characterized by having high motivation self-esteem, low neuroticism, high conscientiousness and extrovertedness. They also show lowest level of defense mechanisms, low levels of shyness and the highest levels of internal locus of control. In terms of cognitive processes, individuals with achievement identity are able to function well under conditions of stress and to use more planned, rational, and logical decision-making strategies than other identity statuses; Second, *moratorium identity*; individuals with a moratorium identity have been shown to use denial, projection, and identification to help maintain generalized anxiety.

Third, *foreclosure identity*, Individuals with a foreclosure identity have personalities features such as high levels of conformity, authoritarianism, and levels of changing aspirations, coupled with low anxiety and use of defensive narcissism. They rely on dependent strategies for their decision making (and are generally not open to new experiences. They use an external locus of control and are oriented towards the more distant future than other identity statuses. Fourth, *diffusion identity*; those with diffusion identity exhibit personal features such as low levels of autonomy, self-esteem, and identity, having no firm identity-defining commitments nor interest in making them, difficulties in adapting to a university environment, be most influenced by peer pressures toward conformity, high level of neuroticism, and high level of external locus of control. These personality features become indicators in this study. The main character, Maddame Bovary has a very prominent identity status.

The novel Madame Bovary, one of Gustave Flaubert's works in the 19th century, tells the story of a woman who marries a middle-class man and is a less romantic doctor. Madame Bovary's married life was not what she had dreamed it would be. To achieve the marriage life she expected, she acted immorally, yet she considered it right. However, what she thought the right way turned into a nightmare for her life. Thus, the researcher can conclude that Emma Bovary has a diffused personality. The researcher wants to explore Flaubert's main character's diffused personality through this study. Also, no research has been found that focuses on the character's identity status, especially in exploring each status so that researcher can declare the novelty of this study.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Previous research on Madame Bovary's novel used Freud's psychological analysis, namely identifying the structure of human psychology, id, ego and superego of the main characters and using psychoanalysis (Giordano, 2020; Purwaningsih, Arafah, Abbas & Arafah, 2020; Sumarsono,



2019; Nursafira, 2019; Septiadi, Andayani., & Wardani, 2019). Other studies on characters only explore the characterization of the main character (Ariani, Suwastini & Mahayanti, 2017; Padmawati, Jayantini & Resen, 2021) with textual analysis method (Ariani, Suwastini & Mahayanti, 2017) and thematic analysis (Padmawati, Jayantini & Resen, 2021), content analysis (Septiadi, Andayani & Wardani, 2019) and trasitivity system (Nugraha & Mahdi, 2020).

In terms of personality, the study conducted by Flekova & Gurevych (2015) focused on Research A focuses on predicting the main character's personality with the five-factor modal of personality through semantic features and then evaluating it based on the main character's speech, actions and predicates. Siahaan & Tampubolon (2015) used a psychological approach and found several positive human traits to help the main character save his family and lover from enemies. Lubis (2020) looked for changes in the main character's personality by inferring the character's thoughts and activities and found a change in personality from extraversion to neuroticism. Suwastini, Asri, Wahyuni & Prastika (2020) investigated the personality development of the main character through thought, speech and action and found positive character development so that he survived in the ocean. This study also uses Freud's psychological analysis and found that these characters' id, ego, and superego are balanced. Garuba (2020) analyzed the main character's personality formation using Jung's psychological types.

Previous studies have not touched on the identity status of the main character in the story. Thus, this study explores the diffused personality, one of the identity statuses, of the main character. The main character is considered to have a prominent identity, namely diffusion identity, which can be found through the main character's personality. The instrument used is the Diffused identity features from Kroger (2005) , which consists of 4 domains: personality, cognition, interpersonal relationship, and social relationship. However, this research is limited to the personality domain. The diffused personality features have 12 features; 1) low levels of autonomy, 2) low level of self-esteem; 3) low level of identity; 4) having no firm identity-defining commitments nor interest in making them; 5) demonstrate the lowest sense of personal continuity over time; 6) difficulties in adapting to an environment; 7) most self-focused; 8) show an absence of systematic approaches to solving problems; 9) high level of neuroticism; 10) high defence-mechanism; 11) high level of external locus of control; 12) hopeless.

3. METHODOLOGY

This research used a qualitative approach. Collecting data with documentation explores the novel *Madame Bovary* level 6, written by Gustave Flaubert, translated into English by Geoffrey Wall retold by Christopher Tribble. Series Editors by Hopkins and Jocelyn Potter. Penguin published this edition in 2008. This novel consists of 16 chapters with 1-98 pages. To explore the diffused personality, the researcher used the personality features of Kroger (2005) characterized by 1) low levels of autonomy, 2) low level of self-esteem; 3) low level of identity; 4) having no firm identity-defining commitments nor interest in making them; 5) demonstrate the lowest sense of personal continuity over time; 6) difficulties in adapting to an environment; 7) most self-focused; 8) show an absence of systematic approaches to solving problems; 9) high level of neuroticism; 10) high defence-mechanism; 11) high level of external locus of control; 12) hopeless. Data analysis used content analysis. Research procedure took some steps as 1) reading the novel repeatedly; 2) identifying character's behaviour, action, interaction, thought and feeling ; 3) classifying the data



into diffused personality features; 4) coding the data; 4) interpreting the data based on personality features by Kroger (2005), and making conclusion based on the result of the analysis.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Findings

Table 1. Diffused Personality Features

Features	Sentences/phrases/ story showing the features	Page	Chapter
1) Low level of autonomy	She depends on her husband money, spends money without working for helping	51, 79	10, 14
2) Low level of self Esteem	“when Chales came to Les Bertaux for the first time, she thought of her self as a dissaponted woman, one whom life had nothing new to offer, either in knowledge or experience”	p.16	4
	“..and the thought of having a boy somehow made her feel better. A man would be free, <i>while a woman is always limited</i> , she is weaker and economically dependent, and the habits of society do not permit her the same freedom”	p. 33	7
	”we poorwomen, we never have such a good reason for regret”	p.49	9
3) Low level of identity	“As time went on, Emma felt herself less and less able to put up with her husband”	p.24	5
	“..and the thought of having a boy somehow made her feel better. A man would be free, <i>while a woman is always limited</i> , she is weaker and economically dependent, and the habits of society do not permit her the same freedom”	p.33	7
4) Having no firm of identity-defining commitments nor interest in making them (go where the find blows)	“Deed down in her heart, she was waiting for something to happen. She did not know what it would be, what the wind would blow to her...”	v	introduction
	“Her journey to La Vaubyessard had changed her life, but left it feeling empty. However, she accepted her fate”	p.25	5
	“After this dissapointment there was the same emptiness in her heart and the empty days began again as before”...	p.25	5
	“she gave up her music..she stopped her drawing...even sewing bored him...there’s nothing left to read; she said to herself”	p.25	5



Features	Sentences/phrases/ story showing the features	Page	Chapter
5) Demonstrate the lowest sense of personal integrative continuity over time	The story of Emma's failure in managing her life. She keeps doing the same mistakes leading her to the death	p.42-93	9 to 16
6) Have difficulties in adapting to an environment	"But soon she grew tired of the country and wished herself back in her convent.	p.16	4
	"...I hate stayed in one place"	p.29	6
	"...as she always saying how she hates Tostes"	p.25	5
7) Most self focused	"She burried her self in woman's magazines, reading every word about... she read the latest novels-even bringing her book with her to the table and turning the pages while Charles ate and talked".	p. 23	5
	"...the memories of Viscount came back to her and her dreams become more important, more real to her than her life as a county doctor's wife".	p.23	5
	"she bought her self a writing-case , a pen holder and some envelopes... She thought she would like to travel, or to go back to her school. She wanted to die and she wanted to go and live in Paris"	p.23	5
	Emma makes easy things difficult	p.17	4
8) High levels of neuroticism	"she thought of her self as a dissaponted woman"	p.16	4
	"while a woman is always limited, she is weaker and economically"	p.33	7
9) Show an absence of systematic approaches to solving problems	Almost in whole story, Emma can not handle the problems she alreedy made.	13-98	4-16
10) procrastination and defensive avoidance of issues (Defence Mecanism)	1) Denial	p.72	13
	"...at dinner, out of politeness pretended to have no appetite"	p.74-75	
	The story when the Bovary is in debt, Emma wants to meet Leon to find solusion, but she lies, she meets Leon to sleep with him. She never tells Leon her main intend.	p.78	
	"Charles confessed that he had her play better. She kept hitting the wrong notes... ah it's no good I		



Features	Sentences/phrases/ story showing the features	Page	Chapter
	<i>have to have some lesson..., ...that was how she managed to get permission from her husband to go to Rouen once a week to see her lover” (p.78)</i>		
	2) Displacement The story of Emma’s fidelity with Leon and Rodolphe	p. 31-60	7, 9 & 10
	3) Represion “...now she passed her time reading religious texts... and Rodolphe was pushed back into a hidden place in her heart...she so much changed”	p.64	12
11) reliance on an external locus of control.	“she was waiting for something to happen, she did not know what it would be, what the wind would blow to her. But every morning when she awoke, she hoped it would come that day”	p.v	introduction
	“why it would happend to me”	p.91	15
	“Fate is to blame”	p.97	16
12) Hopelessness	“...The future like a corridor in which there was no light, and at the end of it only a closed door”	p.25	5
	“was this hopeless life going to last for ever? Was there no escape?”	p.25	5

4.2. Discussion

From the findings above, the researcher describes each of diffused personalities. According to Feist & Feist (2008:10), Personality is “a pattern of certain traits and characteristics, which are relatively permanent and provide both consistency and individuality to a person's behaviour” and Kroger described the four identity statuses’ features including Diffusion personality.

Kroger (2005) stated that a diffuser has several personalities features; 1) a low level of autonomy. Autonomy is the feeling that a person has control over himself. One has the power to determine all actions to be taken without being controlled by anyone. Webster (as cited in Graves & Larkin, 2006:62) defines autonomy as “the quality or state of being self-governing; a self-governing state; self-directing freedom and especially moral in-dependence”. The ability to control oneself is being able to control actions, thoughts and feelings (Legault, 2016), is self-centred, not controlled by external factors (Kluwer, Karremans, Riedijk & Knee, 2021) and is a psychological need (Legault, 2016). Graves & Larkin (2006) said that autonomy in adults is certainly strong and independent. However, Emma Bovary does not show high independence as an adult, but on the contrary, she has a low level of autonomy which means she is unable to control herself, in this case, her thoughts, actions and feelings. Emma, in her marriage, always wanted her husband Charles to be able to make her happy, but strangely Emma did not tell Charles her wishes. She wanted her husband to know everything she wanted as a woman.

An independent attitude characterizes individuals with a high level of autonomy, can resist social pressures to think and behave in certain ways and evaluate themselves with personal standards. Meanwhile, individuals with low autonomy are characterized by always thinking about



the demands and evaluations of others, making decisions based on the judgments of others and tending to confirm social pressures to think and act in certain ways (Riff as cited in Papalia, Olds & Feldman, 2009). If Emma is independent, she cannot go into debt, spending her husband's money without him knowing, but following the direction from Monsieur Lheureux, the draper who takes advantage of Emma's situation to buy expensive things, she can take actions that do not harm herself and her family because she can evaluate her actions and feelings and control the pressures that come from her mind and from outside.

Emma Bovary also has a low level of self-esteem. Emma calls herself a disappointed woman and no experience and knowledge she can offer “*when Chales came to Les Bertaux for the first time, she thought of her self as a dissaponted woman, one whom life had nothing new to offer, either in knowledge or experience (p.33)*”. This sentence indicates that she is of no use at all as a woman. Before Emma married, she was a knowledgeable woman, had a passion for music, and loved to read. However, Emma no longer recognized herself. Furthermore, she despises herself as a woman by saying that a woman is weak and has limitations, freedom, and high dependence compared to men, so Emma often says demeaning women “*we poorwomen, we never have such a good reason for regret*” (p. 49). Even when she was pregnant, she said “*...and the thought of having a boy somehow made her feel better. A man would be free, while a woman is always limited, she is weaker and economically dependent, and the habits of society do not permit her the same freedom*” (p.33). As a result, the presence of a daughter in her household is very disappointing for Emma, so the relationship between the child and mother feels so tenuous starting from the child's birth. Self-esteem is an awareness of how much value you give yourself (Choi, 2019; Cross, Overall, Jayamaha & Sibley, 2021; Emler, 2001; Harris & Orth, 2019; Nguyen, Wright, Dedding, Pham & Bunders, 2019), Self-esteem can be positive or negative (Stets & Burke, 2014). Thus, self-esteem describes a person's subjective feelings wholly about personal values. Self-esteem is described as how an individual values and likes himself regardless of his circumstances. Low self-esteem turns out to have a strong relationship with depression, anxiety & stress, so that it will affect the quality of life and ultimately end in suicide (Kun-hu, 2019; Nguyen, Wright, Dedding, Pham & Bunders, 2019). Readers are presented with Emma's life journey, which is full of depression, anxiety, hopelessness, to a critical stage that leads to death due to low self-esteem.

Identity is strongly related to self-esteem and is a component of self-concept (Stets & Burke, 2014)). If someone is not aware of himself, then someone has a low level of identity and must have a low level of self-esteem because to understand self-esteem, it is necessary to place it in the context of identity (Burke & Stets, 2009). Emma Bovary is confused about her identity, which causes her to look down on or undervalue herself. She is a country girl, but Emma does not accept her circumstances and environment. She wants to be considered as a high-class woman so that readers can label Emma as a dishonest woman. Wanting to be considered a high-class woman, Emma felt she had to be respected and had luxury items like high society. The attitude of not accepting one's situation is a form of low self-identity. Before her marriage to Charles, Emma was a reliable and responsible person in her family “*...especially now she had almost all the responsibility of the farm on her shoulders (p.5)*”. The sentence shows that a woman can carry the burdens entrusted to her by her family, diligently managing the house and taking care of her father. She has sewing skills, music, and painting and has a fairly broad knowledge because she likes reading, but everything stops when Emma feels disappointed with her marriage and begins to end



saying that she has no knowledge and experience, that woman is limited and weak, lives dependent on others even socially has no freedom (p.33). Moreover, she feels that she is increasingly lacking in managing her family (p.24). Emma begins to lose her identity, begins to lose enthusiasm for herself, her identity becomes confused, which triggers depression which is increasingly critical and triggers stupid actions as a woman/wife. Emma also shows herself as a non-committal woman.

The next feature of diffusion is having no firm of identity-defining commitments nor interest in making them (go where the wind blows) (Kroger, 2005). In marriage, commitment is a way for couples to maintain mutually agreed principles for a long period because they have a shared future (Rohma as cited in Utami, 2018; Maharti & Mansoer, 2018) and people who are committed to the relationship will stay together for a common goal (Utami, 2018). A strong foundation is necessary so that the commitment made is not easily shaken and that the ark of the marriage is long-lasting. The novel by Gustave Flaubert tells about a woman's unfaithfulness to her partner, meaning that Emma does not have a strong marital commitment which eventually leads Emma to an affair full of false pleasure but leads to acute depression. Her commitment begins to fade when Emma feels that her husband is an insensitive man, does not care about what she wants even she feels that her husband does not have the ambition to "be rich" so that she can be considered a high-class person (Emma's wish) "*Charles did not have such kind of ambition*". The sentence shows that Emma's commitment depends on if she is satisfied, then she will stay, but if not, her commitment will waver. Rusbult (as cited in Maharti & Mansoer, 2018) said that low marital commitment is closely related to partner dissatisfaction with their marriage. Furthermore, Emma's low commitment is shown when she is disappointed by one of her lovers, Leon. Emma is determined not to have an affair and asks Leon to leave her "*...Forget all about me., she intended to keep her distance to be responsible*", But Emma once again wilts at Leon's flattery and starts loving again.

The author also shows this characteristic through the main character Emma "*deed down in her heart, she was waiting for something to happen. She did not know what it would be, what the wind would blow to her...*" (p.v). It shows that Showing that Emma had no intention of making what she dreamed of happen. She was waiting. Her life flows "*Her journey to La Vaubyessard had changed her life, but left it feeling empty. However, she accepted her fate*" (p.25). Berikut, "*After this disappointment there was the same emptiness in her heart and the empty days began again as before*"... (p.25). These sentences show that Emma does not want to change anything that happened even though she lets it happen repeatedly. This sentence also shows that she is also not interested in continuing her hobby "*she gave up her music..she stopped her drawing...even sewing bored him...there's nothing left to read; she said to herself*" (p. 25). In short, In short, Emma herself does not have a strong commitment and is not even interested in committing.

Diffusers tend to have lowest sense of personal integrative continuity over time (Kroger, 2005). Self-continuity is a feature that determines self-identity (Becker, Vignoles & Easterbrook, 2017). Personal continuity relates to someone past, present and future (Becker, Vignoles & Easterbrook, 2017; Mcadams & Olson, 2009; McAdams et al., 2006) and without personal continuity, one cannot learn from experience, take responsibility for their past actions, make plans for their future, or work with others in the present for future benefits (Becker, Vignoles & Easterbrook, 2017). In the case of Madame Bovary, Emma did say that she was a woman who was not experienced and knowledgeable enough. In fact, Emma was a woman who was known to be diligent in managing the house and taking care of her father in the village, and had several skills



that benefited herself and others if she put them to good use. it can be said that Emma's past should make her life better now and in the future. However, due to the lack of personal integrative continuity, Emma is not skilled at putting together the pieces of her life story. Stress, depression due to dreams that remain a dream and the disease that attacks her cannot make Emma turn away from the road to death. Emma continues to string her affair stories, piling up debts that cannot be paid later and not finding a way out to pay her debts and solve problems cheating. The plan to build an ideal home life only popped into his head for a few days and just disappeared, with no plans for future for her daughter, unable to work with her husband Charles to support the family's deteriorating finances, instead of spending her husband money on her behalf and for her men without her husband's knowledge. Emma should have thought about rebuilding her household for the future while there was still time, but that future was lost with Emma gone forever.

After Emma's move from her village in Les Bertaux to Tostes as Charles' wife, Emma feels bored "*But soon she grew tired of the country and wished herself back in her convent*" (p.16). According to Kroger (2005), People with identity diffusion also cannot adapt to their environment. Emma hates Tostes so much "*as she always saying how she hates Tostes*" (p.25) so Charles thought he needed a new atmosphere and finally moved to Yonville. After moving, Emma told her neighbours that "also when she just moved Emma said she did not like being in one place she did not like living in one place "*...I hate stayed in one place*" (p.29). This part of the story shows that Emma cannot adapt to her new environment in Tostes and Yonville. According to Terziev (2019), the prerequisite for adaptability is the active involvement of individuals in their social life. It is said that in Tostes, she did not build good relations with her neighbours or her husband. He reads magazines and fantasizes that something delightful hopefully happens to her. As a result, boredom began to eat away, and Emma fell ill. If Emma can adapt to her environment, then this ability will have a positive impact as stated by Wilkins et al. (2014) & Zhou & Lin (2016) that the environment is undergoing rapid changes; therefore, it requires the ability to adapt so that it brings positive results, not only that, adaptability also affects mental health or mental resources so that someone with high adaptability will be psychologically healthier than those with low (Ployhart & Bliese as cited in Zhou & Lin, 2016; Terziev, 2019). Emma Bovary is classified as a woman whose ability to adapt to her environment is low.

Self-focus is one of the diffused personality features (Kroger, 2005). Emma prefers to spend time alone even though she is with her husband "*She burried her self in woman's magazines, reading every word about... she read the latest novels-even bringing her book with her to the table and turning the pages while Charles ate and talked*"(p.23). She often fantasizes and dreams of beautiful things but for her own happiness. She never thought about the happiness of her husband or children. For Emma, what was more real was the man who had touched her heart. Viscount, the man she met when she and Charles visited La Vaubyessard (p.18). Emma liked Viscount and wished he liked her too. For Emma, meeting a Viscount was more real than being the wife of a doctor "*...the memories of Viscount came back to her and her dreams become more important, more real to her than her life as a county doctor's wife* (P.23)". The sentence "*her dreams become more important, more real...*" shows that her desire (to be with another man) is more important than her husband's. In Madame Bovary, Gustaf does not write that Emma ever spent anything for her husband. To fulfil the invitation From Marquis in La Vaubyessard, she just bought herself new clothes. Many of Emma's desires are focused on herself that has nothing to do with her little



family“... *She thought she would like to travel, or to go back to her school. She wanted to die and she wanted to go and live in Paris*” (p.23). Everything is about her wish and happiness.

Among all identity statuses, those with diffused identities have high self-focus. They do not think about other people (Kroger, 2005) or lack obligation towards others (Layland, Hill & Nelson, 2018). Indeed, in adults, social anxiety causes individuals to focus on themselves (Layland, Hill & Nelson, 2018), such as Emma Bovary, who may be anxious' about her household life that she thinks might not be happy. Weltzien, Marsh & Hood (2018) found that self-focus also reduces sharing activities with others resulting in loss of communication. Centred on her vain hopes, Emma does not want to communicate with her husband. Emma's self-focus brought Emma's life into a deep despair because apparently, self-focus can cause depression (Tabuchi, Yamazaki, & Oikawa, 2017). However, self-focus can help a person explore his identity and develop it. Emma's story brings the reader to find her diffused identity. Emma's self-focused does not change her identity until the story ends.

People who have a diffused personality/identity show a high level of neuroticism (Kroger, 2005). A high level of neuroticism refers to 'negative' personality traits (Baun, Junias, & Benu, 2020; Widiger & Oltmanns, 2017; Chochinov, et al., 2006) where individuals who have high levels of neuroticism always view life negatively and the environment as a threat (Baun, Junias & Benu, 2020) as what Emma thinks “*she thought of her self as a disappointed woman*” p.16 and what she says “*while a woman is always limited, she is weaker and economically*” (p.33). Emma views herself negatively. Sosnowska, De Fruyt & Hofmans (2019) found that those with high neuroticism are prone to stress because they are not able to manage stress. This inability to manage stress causes them to seek ineffective strategies such as avoidance and distraction, denial, self-criticism, wishful thinking, which is another important factor that leads to energy depletion.

Emma Bovary has a high level of neuroticism. Emma is stressed about very simple problems, such as communicating her thought and will to her husband. However, Emma prefers to keep it under wraps and expects her husband to know it instinctively. Emma considered her husband, residence, daughter, property, maid, and friends a threat. In short, they all could not make her happy. Emma seems to be isolated in her marriage and social life. Emma's life seems to destroy Emma. She did not realize that she was the one who destroyed her own life by choosing ineffective strategies for solving problems; for example, to overcome his boredom at home, Emma chose to cheat so that other negative actions began to emerge. Emma prefers to communicate with her affairs rather than her husband when dealing with her debt problems. When not getting help, Emma prefers to drink poison to solve her problems, leaving her husband and child whom 'she does not love'. This action also refers to one of the characteristics of people with diffused personalities, namely, showing an absence of systematic approaches to solving problems (Kroger, 2005). In solving problems, Emma chooses actions that heighten the problem and do not resolve the problem properly. The inability to manage stress and solve problems led him to her death.

The next characteristic of diffused identity is defensive avoidance of issues (defense mechanism) (Kroger, 2005). *Defense Mechanism* is a form of response that is unconsciously used to protect oneself from feelings of anxiety. In other words, people who carry out self-defense mechanisms are reluctant to deal with the problem but look for other, 'safer' ways. This response is normal to adapt to the world (Jamilian, Zamani & Khansar, 2014), in this case, emotional conflict, internal or external (Di Giuseppe & Perry, 2021), the problem is when a person has a high



level of defensive mechanism, and usually, those with high defensive mechanisms experience anxiety or depression (Rohaeni, Hetami & Purwanto, 2019). According to Freud (as cited in Rohaeni, Hetami & Purwanto, 2019; Zulfaisya & Hasra, 2020), There are some defensive mechanism methods, they are denial of reality, displacement, projection, rationalization, repression, and suppression. Methods of defense mechanism that Emma has are first, *denial of reality* that can be seen from some of Emma's actions when her father-in-law died, Emma also pretended to have lost her appetite to make the feeling of losing Bovary senior “...at dinner, out of politeness pretended to have no appetite” (p.72). Other lies such as when Charles asked where he got the form to arrange Charles' financial affairs, which he got from Lheureux, Emma lied that he got it from Monsieur Guillaumin, the Yonville lawyer. Charles refused not to use a lawyer because of his crime, and then suggested asking Leon Dupois, as Emma's wish. Emma asked that she meet Leon to talk about financial affairs. Emma went away for three days and instead went for a walk and slept with Leon (p.74-75). Next, When Emma has an affair with Leon, Emma must find a way to meet Leon regularly. When her husband asks her to play the piano for him because he knows that Emma can play well, Emma pretends to make a sound mistake, so she makes that an excuse to take piano lessons “Charles confessed that he had her play better. She kept hitting the wrong notes... ah it's no good I have to have some lesson..., ...that was how she managed to get permission from her husband to go to Rouen once a week to see her lover” (p.78).

Second, *displacement*; displacement is a defensive mechanism method that a person uses to eliminate frustration, feelings, and impulses on people or objects (Freud as cited in Zulfaisya & Hasra, 2020) Emma's action that shows displacement is her affair with Leon and Rodolphe as a substitute for dissatisfaction with her insensitive husband and not romantic. Third, repression; Repression is a method of defensive mechanism in which a person tries to erase the trauma experienced from his thoughts. They try to forget the trauma. After being left by Rodolphe, Emma was disappointed and very depressed, so Emma was sick, and finally, Emma tried to forget Rodolphe by reading religious books “...now she passed her time reading religious texts... and Rodolphe was pushed back into a hidden place in her heart...she so much changed” (p.64). Emma managed to erase her story with Rodolphe.

The following characteristic of diffused identity is reliance on an external locus of control (Kroger 2005). Locus of control is a person's belief in controlling his destiny (Triono, 2020). Rotter (as cited in Reknes et al., 2019; Tyler, Hefferman & Fortune, 2020) divides locus of control into two types, namely 1) internal locus of control, namely a person's belief that what happens is due to his control. It is characterized by liking to work hard, having high initiative, always trying to find ways to solve problems, thinking as effectively as possible, having the perception that effort must be made to succeed (Ghufron & Risnawati, 2014); and 2) external locus of control, i.e. what happens is beyond their control. The characteristics are lack of initiative, hope that there is little correlation between effort and success, and do not like to try because they believe that external factors control and lack of seeking information to solve problems (Ghufron & Risnawati, 2014). Therefore, if a person experiences failure, they blame the surrounding environment for the cause. This locus, of course, affects future actions. They feel incapable and lack effort, so they have no hope of correcting the failure. Emma Bovary has a high external locus of control which is indicated by her statement “fate is to blame” (p. 97). Emma blamed her destiny, blamed her surroundings when she was bored when she was unable to adapt. Emma does not look like she is making a living



but just waiting for something to happen “*she was waiting for something to happen, she did not know what it would be, what the wind would blow to her. But every morning when she awoke, she hoped it would come that day*” (p.v). Madame Bovary blames her destiny by saying “*why it would happend to me*” (p.91). It seems that she does not know that she is the person who ruins her own life. It is not only her life but also her husband, who also dead and her little daughter, who was sent to live with her aunt.

Someone with a diffused identity also shows hopeless behaviour. Hopeless means no hope. Some people end their life as a way out from their hardship (Huen, Ip, Ho & Yip, 2015), therefore, hopeless is considered as the predictor of suicidal decision (Wolfe., et al, 2019). Emma commits suicide, which is the end of Gustav Flaubert's Madame Bovary. Madame Bovary's life is filled with self-inflicted misery. Despising herself as a woman, feeling dissatisfied with her own life, her married life, her social life, and her relationship with her daughter, she looks for an ineffective solution that is infidelity to satisfy herself. Emma's infidelity leads her to lie, and she ends up in debt that she can not afford to pay off. Her misery left her with a deep depression that left Emma physically and mentally ill, leading Emma to a decision which, once again ineffective, is suicide. If Emma had any hope, she could not have taken her own life by drinking poison. Having hope is the power to solve problems. Wolfe., et al (2019) found that hope has a substantial role for buffer the impact of hopelessness, such as suicide. For Emma Bovary, her life is indeed hopeless as she stated “*was this hopeless life going to last for ever? Was there no escape?*” (p.25) and “*...The future like a corridor in which there was no light, and at the end of it only a closed door*” (p.25). This statement shows that Emma has lost hope in her life and future. Emma had a wish for such a life to end, but Emma never tried it. Emma believes that there is no future for her

5. CONCLUSION

Identity status is owned by humans in real life and can also be created in characters in literary works. The novel Madame Bovary by Gustave Flaubert highlights one of the identity statuses in the main character, namely diffusion personality, which is shown in 12 features; 1) low levels of autonomy, 2) low level of self-esteem; 3) low level of identity; 4) having no firm identity-defining commitments nor interest in making them; 5) demonstrate the lowest sense of personal continuity over time; 6) difficulties in adapting to an environment; 7) most self-focused; 8) show an absence of systematic approaches to solving problems; 9) high level of neuroticism; 10) high defence-mechanism; 11) high level of external locus of control; and 12) hopeless. These features can be detected through the behaviour, words, thoughts, feelings of the character. Literary works are one source for conducting research related to identity; therefore, the following research can focus on three identity statuses that have not been studied, namely achievement, moratorium and foreclosure identity as a whole not only limited to detecting the personality domain but also other domains such as interpersonal relationships, and social relationships.

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