

**UNVEILING THE INFLUENCE OF NEUROTIC TRENDS ON  
AGU'S BEHAVIOR IN UZODINMA IWEALA'S  
*BEASTS OF NO NATION***

**THESIS**

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE  
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UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM MALANG  
2019**

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**THESIS**

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In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of *Sarjana Sastra* (S.S)

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2019**

## STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP

I state that the thesis entitled “**Unveiling the Influence of Neurotic Trends on Agu’s Behavior in Uzodinma Iweala’s *Beast of No Nation***” is my original work. I do not include any materials previously written or published by another person, except those ones that are cited as references and written in the bibliography. Hereby, if there is an objection or claim, I am the only person who is responsible for that.

Malang, June 12 2019



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## APPROVAL SHEET

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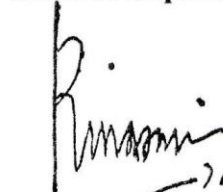
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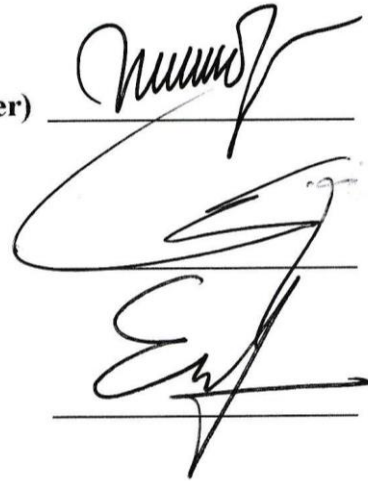
This is to certify that Aisyah Dahniar Putri Ningrum's thesis entitled **Unveiling the Influence of Neurotic Trends on Agu's Behavior in Uzodinma Iweala's *Beast of No Nation*** has been approved by the Board of Examiners as the requirement for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra* (S.S.) in English Literature Department.

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## **MOTTO**

*If something is wrong, fix it if you can. But train yourself to not to worry. Worry never fixes anything*

- Ernest Hemingway

*Train your mind to see the good in everthing. Positivity is a choice. The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts.*

- Marcandangel

## **DEDICATION**

My thesis is proudly dedicate to:

My dearest father, mother, and great grandmother who always support emotionally and materially with prayer, love, and patience. Without their support I do nothing.

My three younger sisters and brother who always be my best friends, human diary, and my other half.

My Advisor who always supports, inspires, and guides me sincerely so that I can finish this thesis.

It is also dedicated to my friends who have helped and supported me throughout the process.

Thank you all of you, just for being here to me.

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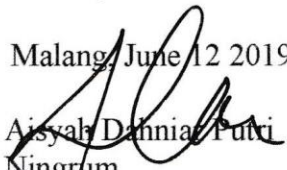
I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Allah SWT for years of blessing and greatest lessons on matters seen and unseen, since without Him, I would have never finished my thesis. With a tremendous gratitude, I acknowledge my family, lecturers, and friends who have contributed a lot in helping and supporting me to work on the process of writing

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Finally, I truly realize that this thesis is still far from perfection. Thus, I will always appreciate for the criticism and suggestion from the readers. Hopefully, this study can give a valuable contribution to the Literary field.

Malang, June 12 2019

  
Aisyah Dahnial Putri  
Ningrum



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## ABSTRACT

Ningrum, Aisyah Dahniar Putri. 2019. **Unveiling the Influence of Neurotic Trends on Agu's Behavior in Uzodinma Iweala's *Beast of No Nation***. Undergraduate Thesis (*Skripsi*)  
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**Keywords** : Psychoanalysis, Social Psychoanalysis, Neurotic Trend

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Neurotic needs and trends are rooted in an individual's life experiences and psychological aspects that influence the severity of their condition. This is seen through the issue of war and the life of soldiers where people endure great stress and conflicts caused by the violence and complex problems within. The survival needs and morality of human beings become an interesting topic to further analyze as it demonstrates how neurotic personality starts to develop based on psychological and mental needs.

This study especially aims to describe the cause of Agu's neurotic trends in Uzodinma Iweala's *Beasts of No Nation* and to analyze the influence of neurotic trends on Agu's behavior in Uzodinma Iweala's *Beasts of No Nation*. The researcher used Karen Horney's social psychoanalysis as the main theory in the research. The method of research is literary criticism (psychoanalytic approach). The data is taken from Uzodinma Iweala's *Beasts of No Nation* as the data source and Agu as the main character as well as the focus of the research. The research was analyzed descriptively.

The results of the study include several aspects. The first result refers to the cause of Agu's neurotic trends as represented in Uzodinma Iweala's *Beasts of No Nation*. The causes of Agu's neurotic trends are repressed hostility and conflict. This is related to how Agu is involuntarily pressured into becoming a soldier at war which leads him into developing a neurotic personality. The repressed hostility is seen in how Agu has been repressing his negative feelings, fear, and hatred toward the commandant. Meanwhile, conflict as the cause of Agu's neurotic trends is seen from his conflicted mind between maintaining his humanity or fulfilling his responsibility as a soldier which required him to be violent.

The second result includes Agu's behavior based on the neurotic trends classification. Agu's behavior in the novel is determined by compliant personality and aggressive personality. Both compliant and aggressive personalities are shown by Agu to overcome his basic anxiety and achieve safety in the middle of the war. The compliant personality is seen through Agu's behavior that moves toward other people such as needing affection, approval, and the need for dominant partner. This is represented through Agu's complete obedience to the commandant as he seeks his safety and overcomes his basic anxiety. Meanwhile, the aggressive personality is reflected through Agu's acts of domineering and violence where he asserted dominance by killing enemies, exploiting, and manipulating others.

## ABSTRAK

Ningrum, Aisyah Dahniar Putri. 2019. **Unveiling the Influence of Neurotic Trends on Agu's Behavior in Uzodinma Iweala's *Beast of No Nation***. Skripsi Jurusan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Humaniora, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor : Muhammad Edy Thoyib, M.A.

**Keywords** : Psikoanalisis, Psikoanalisis Sosial, Neurotic Trend

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Kebutuhan dan tren neurotik berasal dari pengalaman hidup individu dan aspek psikologis yang mempengaruhi tingkat keparahan kondisinya. Hal ini terlihat melalui isu perang dan kehidupan prajurit dimana rakyat mengalami tekanan dan konflik yang hebat akibat kekerasan dan permasalahan yang kompleks di dalamnya. Kebutuhan kelangsungan hidup dan moralitas manusia menjadi topik yang menarik untuk dianalisis lebih lanjut karena menunjukkan bagaimana kepribadian neurotik mulai berkembang berdasarkan kebutuhan psikologis dan mental.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan penyebab tren neurotik Agu dan menganalisis pengaruh tren neurotik terhadap perilaku Agu dalam novel *Beasts of No Nation* karya Uzodinma Iweala. Peneliti menggunakan teori psikoanalisis sosial oleh Karen Horney sebagai teori utama dalam penelitian dalam studi psikoanalisis yang digunakan. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah kritik sastra (pendekatan psikoanalitik). Data diambil dari *Beasts of No Nation* karya Uzodinma Iweala sebagai sumber data dan Agu sebagai tokoh utama sekaligus fokus penelitian. Penelitian ini dianalisis secara deskriptif.

Hasil penelitian meliputi beberapa aspek. Hasil pertama mengacu pada penyebab tren neurotik Agu seperti yang direpresentasikan dalam *Beasts of No Nation* karya Uzodinma Iweala. Penyebab tren neurotik Agu adalah kebencian dan konflik yang dialaminya. Hal ini terkait dengan bagaimana Agu tanpa sadar ditekan untuk menjadi prajurit perang yang membawanya mengembangkan kepribadian neurotik. Kebencian terlihat dari bagaimana Agu telah menekan perasaan negatif, akan ketakutan, dan kebenciannya terhadap komandan. Sementara itu, konflik sebagai penyebab kecenderungan neurotik Agu terlihat dari pikirannya yang berkonflik antara mempertahankan kemanusiaannya atau memenuhi tanggung jawabnya sebagai prajurit yang mengharuskannya melakukan kekerasan.

Hasil kedua meliputi perilaku Agu berdasarkan klasifikasi tren neurotik. Perilaku Agu dalam novel merupakan kepribadian yang patuh dan kepribadian yang agresif. Kepribadian penurut dan agresif ditunjukkan oleh Agu untuk mengatasi kecemasan dasarnya dan mencapai keselamatan di tengah perang. Kepribadian yang patuh terlihat melalui perilaku Agu yang bergerak terhadap orang lain seperti membutuhkan kasih sayang, persetujuan, dan kebutuhan akan pasangan yang dominan. Ini diwakili melalui kepatuhan penuh Agu untuk komandan saat ia mencari keselamatannya sendiri dan mengatasi kecemasan dirinya. Sementara itu, kepribadian agresif tercermin melalui tindakan Agu yang mendominasi dan penuh kekerasan di mana ia menegaskan dominasi dengan membunuh musuh, mengeksploitasi, dan memanipulasi orang lain.

## مستخلص البحث

نينجروم، عائشة داهنيار فوتري. 2019. استكشاف تأثير الاتجاهات العصبية على سلوك أغو في أوزودينما إيويالا وحوش بلا أمة. البحث الجامعي. قسم اللغة الإنجليزية وأدبها، كلية العلوم الإنسانية، جامعة مولانا مالك إبراهيم الإسلامية الحكومية بمالانج.

المشرف : محمد إيدي طيب الماجستير

الكلمات الأساسية : تحليل نفسي، تحليل نفسي اجتماعي، الاتجاه العصائبي

تنشأ الاحتياجات والاتجاهات العصبية من خبرة حياة الفرد والجوانب النفسية التي تؤثر على شدة الحالة. تلاحظ الحالة من خلال قضايا الحرب وحياة الجنود حيث يعاني الشعب من ضغوط شديدة وخلاف بسبب العنف والمشاكل المعقدة فيه. تصبح حاجة البقاء والأخلاق البشرية موضوعاً ممتعاً للتحليل لأنه يوضح كيف تبدأ تطور الشخصية العصبية بناءً على الاحتياجات النفسية والعقلية.

يهدف هذا البحث إلى وصف أسباب وتأثير الاتجاهات العصبية لسلوك أغو في قصة أوزودينما إيويالا وحوش بلا أمة. تستخدم الباحثة نظرية التحليل النفسي الاجتماعي لكارين هورني كنظرية رئيسية في دراسة التحليل النفسي المستخدمة. أسلوب البحث المستخدم هو النقد الأدبي (منهج التحليل النفسي). البيانات المأخوذة من قصة وحوش بلا أمة عند أوزودينما إيويالا كمصدر البيانات و أغو كالشخصية الرئيسية بالإضافة إلى تركيز البحث. تحلل هذا البحث وصفيًا.

نتائج البحث تحتوي عدة الجوانب. تدل النتيجة الأولى على أسباب الاتجاهات العصبية لسلوك أغو كما هو موضح في قصة وحوش بلا أمة عند أوزودينما إيويالا. سبب الاتجاهات العصبية لسلوك أغو هو الكراهية والخلاف الذي يعانيه. هذا مرتبط بكيفية تعرض أغو للضغط بلا واع ليصبح جنود الحرب مما دفعه إلى تطوير الشخصية العصبية. ينظر إلى الكراهية من خلال قيام أغو بقمع مشاعره السلبية لخوفه وكراهيته إلى القائد. في الوقت نفسه، الخلاف كسبب لميول الاتجاهات العصبية اغو من أفكاره المتضاربة بين الدفاع عن إنسانيته أو الوفاء بمسؤولياته كجندي مما الذي يلزمه ليقوم بالعنف.

النتيجة الثانية تشمل سلوك أغو بناءً على تصنيف الاتجاهات العصبية. سلوك أغو في القصة هو شخصية مطيعة وعدوانية. تظهر أغو شخصية مطيعة وعدوانية للتغلب على قلق الأساسي وتحقيق الأمان في أوسط الحرب. تظهر الشخصية المطيعة من خلال سلوك أغو الذي يتجه الآخرين مثل الحاجة إلى المودة والموافقة والحاجة إلى شريك مهمين. يتم تمثيل ذلك من خلال طاعة أغو الكاملة للقائد وهو يبحث عن سلامته ويتغلب على مخاوفه الذاتية. في الوقت نفسه، تنعكس شخصيته العدوانية من خلال أعمال الاستبداد والعنف التي يقوم بها أغو حيث يؤكد الهيمنة بقتل الأعداء واستغلال الآخرين والتلاعب الآخرين.

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers an overview of the research background. Background of the study provides the rationale for conducting research under the title *Unveiling the Influence of Neurotic Trends on Agu's Behavior in Uzodinma Iweala's Beasts of No Nation*. Problems of the study and objective of the study provide the main issues of the research. Significance of the study provides an overview of the benefits that are hoped to be achieved in the research. Scope and limitation narrows the focus of the research. Definition of key terms provide a better understanding to understand the main definitions of the issues taken as the main concern of the study. The previous study provides referral source as well as a comparison from the past research in the same area of topic or object. The research method provides the suitable research design, data source, data collection, and data analysis for the research.

### **A. Background of the Study**

The psychological aspect of human beings and their development as individuals includes the perception which is gained by their inner judgment and society. This is further reflected through the developed behavior and tendencies where people with different experiences also display different behavior or personality traits. Horney (1950) explained that the process of human development is addressed as a neurotic process that is barely in uniform. This means that the temperament, the conditions of early and later life, and the results

in behavior or personality greatly differ from one person to another as it is highly dependent on their own life. Moreover, Horney (1950) further explained that neurotic development in human beings includes the concept of morality which refers to human desire, drive, religious values, and the idea of perfection. This means that one's development and behavior are influenced by their personalized desire, and intentions, as well as their experiences in life that shape their individuality. In this sense, an individual's personality and behavior are constructed based on their desire as well as the influence of society and the environment they live in.

In approaching humans' development and their personality, there are several aspects which closely related to their perception as human beings and how they behave. Karen Horney as a well-known psychoanalyst defines neurotic needs and neurotic trends as the main factors of human personality. Horney (as cited in Schultz and Schultz, 2009) explained that neurotic needs determine the individuals' personalities based on the characteristics of their drives which are further reflected through their behavior. In other words, neurotic needs determine one's intentions behind their behavior. Horney (as cited in Schultz and Schultz, 2009) further mentioned a total of ten neurotic needs consisting of affection and approval, a dominant partner, power, exploitation, prestige, admiration, achievement, self-sufficiency, perfection, and narrow limits to life. The determined neurotic needs are based on human beings' tendency to protect themselves from discomfort and anxiety.

The determined neurotic needs are further compiled into three categories that are included as neurotic trends. Neurotic trends refer to the indication of one's attitude toward themselves and others (Horney, as cited in Schultz and Schultz, 2009). This means that neurotic trends determine the attitude and behavior of an individual in viewing themselves and perceiving others. Horney's neurotic trends are divided into the movement toward other people or the compliant personality, the movement against other people, or the aggressive personality, and the movement away from other people, or the detached personality (Schultz and Schultz, 2009). Each of the mentioned trends carries the neurotic needs that are determined by human beings' drive, intention, and traits regarding their personality. Coolidge et al. (2015) elaborated that a healthy neurotic personality is determined by interpersonal relationships and individual development. This means that an individual's development in neurotic personality and behavior is significantly influenced by their relationship with themselves and others.

The topic of human personality and behavior includes the aspect of neurotic needs and trends applied to various fields including literature. Literature as a product of human creativity in writing or oral language is stressed in the use rather than the value. Wellek and Warren (1942) stated that the function of literature is to satisfy the reader. Harmonization between the aspect of utility and pleasure comes to be an essential essence to satisfy the reader. Therefore, literature must contain thought, emotion, and feeling within it. It is a mimetic understanding of the author's real-life society that is poured into a creative work of art. From reading literature, the reader is expected to gain value and



entertainment. In that way, the literature will hit the function of utility and pleasure (Wellek and Warren, 1954, p. 21).

To fulfill diverse readers' expectations and achieve the function of utility and pleasure, literature is divided into three genres. Three genres of literature are novel, drama, and poetry (Klarer, 1999, p. 3). The distinction between the three genres is different by the way the author writes the text. Poetry is generally written in verse text that serves the function of utility and pleasure through the art of expressing feeling in connotative and imaginative meaning. Dramas are commonly written in direct dialogue that serves the function of utility and pleasure through the art of expressing feeling into character depiction where the readers are going to impress in a way the story portrayed. Novels are mostly written in narrative text that serves the function of utility and pleasure through the art of expressing feeling into a complete story that pinpoints one or several major characters and provides a minor character to support the major character (Lethbridge & Mildorf, 2012).

Among the three genres, novel is considered as the most capable to allow the reader to experience psychological closeness from the story. The depiction of a certain novel with a character that is presented in a particular time and place to aim for a distinct purpose of action makes the story emerge in various ways (Klarer, 1999, p. 11). Therefore, reading fiction tends to influence the reader's personality through empathy. Ups and downs characterization portrayed by the character within literary works would possibly be captured by the reader as an important value and entertainment.

One novel that proposes magnificent ups and downs characterization portrayed by the character is *Beast of No Nation*. *Beast of no nation* is a 2005 novel by Nigerian-American author Uzodinma Iweala. The novel tells a story about an African boy named Agu who is forced to become a rebel force. As a soldier, Agu is obliged to kill his enemy or be killed by his enemy. Initially, this condition makes him fear that God will hate him for killing others, but he forces himself to believe that this is what God wants, because “he is a soldier and this is what soldiers do in war.” In the end, Agu can escape the rebel forces when some soldier revolt against the commander. In time, he comes under the care of a missionary shelter/hospital where he gradually regains his health and strength. However, his psychological condition is deeply wounded by a bloody guerrilla war.

*Beasts of No Nation* was generally praised by critics for its power and insight into the plight of child soldiers. The novel is adapted into a movie in 2015 with the same title directed by Cary Joji Fukunaga. The movie was nominated and ultimately won decent prizes. Some of the prizes that the movie won include Film Independent Spirit Awards, National Board of Review, NAACP Image Awards, Screen Actors Guild Awards, and Venice International Film Festival. The succession of *Beast of no Nation* interests the researcher to make the novel as the research object. Another strong reason for the researcher to make the novel the research object is its psychological value.

In the field of academic studies, Horney’s social psychoanalytic has been used as the main theory to analyze literary work. The first previous study is a

thesis by Setyawan Yusuf (2018) under the title *Silas Anxiety in Dan Brown's the Da Vinci Code*. The result of this thesis concluded that the failure to fulfill neurotic needs leads to neurotic behavior. The second previous study is a thesis by Nurmawati in 2003 under the title *Marchbank's Neurotic need of love and Its Influence on His Pursuit of Happiness Portrayed in George Bernard Shaw's Candida (Psychological Approach)*. The result of this thesis concluded that losing the need for love in childhood could motivate an individual to search for insatiable love without taking into consideration the right and wrong. *Beasts of No Nation* was also previously analyzed as a research object by past researchers. Alobeytha, Mohamed, and Rahman in 2017 publication journal under the title *The Lost Identity of the Trafficked Child Soldier in Young Adult Literature*. The result of the research concluded that *Beasts of No Nation* succeeded in demonstrating the diverse forms of violence suffered by children. It is also revealed that the traffickers always wanted to erase the identity of child soldiers to subjugate them to their powers.

The portrayal of children's personality development that is influenced by social environment is fairly related to developing countries like Indonesia. The reader especially a parent is hoped to gain insight into how to nurture their children by analyzing the influence and effect of the social environment on children's personalities. The focus of the research will be analyzing Agu's personality development through the scope of Horney's social psychoanalysis. The analysis includes portraying the cause of Agu's neurosis needs and its effect on his behavior. Ultimately, based on the detail that has been elaborated above,

the researcher intends to conduct a research entitled *Unveiling the Influence of Neurotic Trends on Agu's Behavior in Uzodinma Iweala's Beasts of No Nation*.

## **B. Problems of the Study**

Based on the background of this research, the problem in this study are:

1. What are the causes of Agu's neurotic trends in Uzodinma Iweala's *Beasts of No Nation*?
2. How do neurotic trends influence Agu's behavior in Uzodinma Iweala's *Beasts of No Nation*?

## **C. Objectives of the Study**

The research objectives are a continuation of the research problem above.

The researcher concludes that the objectives of this study are:

1. To describe the causes of Agu's neurotic trends in Uzodinma Iweala's *Beasts of No Nation*
2. To analyze the influence of neurotic trends on Agu's behavior in Uzodinma Iweala's *Beasts of No Nation*

## **D. Significance of the Study**

Theoretically, the results of this study are expected to enrich the development of literary criticism, especially the analysis of novels using psychological theory. The use of Uzodinma Iweala's *Beasts of No Nation* novel which has the main issues about children's personality development caused by conflict is considered suitable for research with a psychological approach. In addition, the use of Karen Horney's social psychoanalysis which exclusively

discuss the influence of social environment on the development of children's personality will provide a sufficient foundation for the research.

Practically, for the researcher, this research is hoped to be a useful medium in implementing the researcher's knowledge about literary work and literary theory. For the future researcher, this research is also expected to contribute as a reference for research in the related field of analyzing literary work with a psychological approach.

### **E. Scope and Limitation**

The analysis of this research will be focused on portraying the cause of neurotic trends depicted by Agu in accordance to social psychoanalytic. Subsequently, the analysis is continued by discussing the influence of neurotic trends on Agu's behavior. All the analysis is based on the social psychoanalytic theory by Karen Horney.

### **F. Research Method**

Research method is used to systematically collect the necessary data in the process of identifying and explaining the phenomena that being researched. (Somantri, 2005).

#### **1. Research Design**

According to Saeed (2016), literary criticism divided into Theoretical criticism, Practical criticism, Impressionistic criticism, and Judicial criticism. This research falls under the category of theoretical criticism because it uses an explicit theory of literature, in sense of general principles, together with a set of terms,

distinctions, and categories, to be applied to identifying and analyzing works of literature. The theory that will be used is psychoanalytic theory by Karen Horney. The psychological aspect from the research object that is Uzodinma Iweala's *Beasts of No Nation* novel will be identified and analyzed through the approach of Horney's psychoanalytic theory.

## 2. Data Source

The data source for this research were taken from 142 pages novel *Beasts of No Nation* by Uzodinma Iweala published in 2005 by HarperCollins Publishers. To significantly accelerate and deepen the researcher's understanding, the researcher watched the 2015 movie with the same title directed by Cary Joji Fukunaga.

## 3. Data Collection

The data collection includes several steps. First, the researcher read the novel *Beasts of No Nation* (2015). After that, the researcher proceeded to do scanning reading on the novel to gain deep understanding about hidden and important message that the novel contain. Next, the researcher marked the potential data in the forms of narration and dialogues obtained from the novel. Lastly, the researcher classified the data based on the evidence of neurotic needs and trends from Horney's psychoanalysis.

## 4. Data Analysis

The data analysis will included several steps. The first step includes categorizing and classifying the data that has been annotated. The classification is

based on the foundation of neurotic trends and the page where the data is obtained. The second step includes describing the cause of Agu's neurotic trends to answer the first research problem. The third step includes analyzing and discussing the influence of neurotic trends on Agu's behavior to answer the second research problem.

### **G. Previous Studies**

Uzodinma Iweala's *Beasts of No Nation* novel has been previously used as a research object by past researchers. In 2017, several researchers namely Alobeytha, Mohamed, and Rahman conducted research that was published in a publication journal under the title *The Lost Identity of the Trafficked Child Soldier in Young Adult Literature*. The research concluded that *Beasts of No Nation* succeeded in demonstrating the diverse forms of violence that the children were exposed to and how it affected their personality and behavior. This research also confirmed that rebel forces' social environment plays a vital role in changing children's personalities and behavior into criminals and slaves.

The theory of Horney's psychoanalysis also has been previously used as a theory for psychological approach. One of the past researchers was Setyawan who conducted his research in 2018 under the title *Silas Anxiety in Dan Brown's the Da Vinci Code*. The research overview the main character's failure to obtain neurotic need. The neurotic needs that the main character failed to get are the need for affection and approval, the need for a powerful partner, the neurotic need for social recognition, the neurotic need for ambition and personal achievement, the neurotic need for self-sufficiency, and independence. The research also concluded

that everything that interferes with the sense of security in the relationship of the child with the parents will produce basic anxiety.

Another researcher that utilizes Horney's psychoanalysis was Nurmawati in 2003 under the title *Marchbank's Neurotic need of love and Its Influence on His Pursuit of Happiness Portrayed in George Bernard Shaw's Candida (Psychological Approach)*. The research focused on the cause of the main character's neurotic need for love. The cause includes unfair treatment that the main character receives from his parents, abusive treatment from his father, and losing someone that the main character cares about. The idea that love will bring happiness provokes the main character to insatiably search for love. These traits lead the main character to become aggressive toward others. The main character will put forth every effort no matter whether it is good or bad. In conclusion, the neurotic needs for love drive the main character to become a neurotic individual who relentlessly searches for love to satisfy his neurotic needs for love.;

## **H. Definition Key Terms**

**Basic Anxiety:** A pervasive feeling of loneliness and helplessness; the foundation of neurosis (Schultz and Schultz, 2009: 164).

**Neurotic Needs:** Ten irrational defenses against anxiety that become a permanent part of personality and that affect behavior (Schultz and Schultz, 2009: 165).



**Neurotic Trends:** Three categories of behaviors and attitudes toward oneself and others that express a person's needs; Horney's revision of the concept of neurotic needs (Schultz and Schultz, 2009: 166).

## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW ON RELATED LITERATURE**

This chapter covers a general insight to the related theory that will be used to undergo the research. Firstly, the researcher will present the general overview about psychology of literature as an approach for this research. Then, the researcher will present the common background of psychoanalytic development. After that, the researcher will provide the introduction to Karen Horney's psychoanalytic theory. Subsequently, the researcher will elaborate the theory of basic anxiety, neurosis needs, and neurosis trends as the key foundation to analyze the research object.

#### **A. Psychology of Literature**

Practically, literature and psychology are two different disciplines. However, both literature and psychology share the salient correlation in studying human beings as the primary object. The concern of psychological studies is mostly oriented to human nature, function, and phenomena (Coleman, 1988:3). Whereas literature reflected human nature, function, and phenomena in a form of creative works of art as an effort to leave a trace of their existence (Klarer, 1999:1). Moreover, Rahayu (2009:1) explained that literature does not only for the means of entertainment but also reflect human personal experiences in various aspects. This highlighted the point that literary work has wide scopes that reflect human lives. It is applied through the author's standpoint of objective, perception, ideologist, and valuation to open an imaginative world to the reader (Aras, 2014:

251). Emir (2016) asserted that the mutual correlation between psychology and literature resides within the evaluation of a literary work using the resources of psychology to obtain psychological truths from a literary work. Literature assists psychology in the sense of portraying human psychological conditions through literary work while psychology brings readers to the psychological dimension of human reality by analyzing moods and character expressions. Literature also includes the portrayal of human dynamics in which power relation is involved (Rahayu, 2014:4). This highlighted the relationships between human beings and the complications that are interrelated between the psychological aspect and dynamic aspect.

Wellek and Warren (1942: 75) introduce the term psychology of literature by means study of the writer as an individual, or study of literary work as creative process, or study of psychological aspect presented within literary work, or study of the effect of literary work upon its reader. Briefly, the psychology of literature is divided into four categories author-oriented, text-oriented, contextual-oriented, and reader-oriented. The author-oriented put the primal interest in analyzing the relationship between the literary works and the biography of the author. The text-oriented primarily focused on analyzing the language, style, and formal structure of literary works. The contextual-oriented concern is analyzing historical, social, or political background within literary works. Reader-oriented centralizes on the admission of texts by the reader and the texts' general impact on society (Klarer, 1999: 76).

In the beginning, as early as 1916, psychological literary criticism was originated by Freud with the name of psychoanalysis (Knapp, 2004: 102). Psychoanalysis was initially used and developed as a method of therapy for neuroses. Subsequently, the practices expanded in the history of civilizations including warfare, mythology, religion, literature, and other arts (Hossain, 2017). In the field of literature, psychoanalysis perceives literary work as suppressed feeling and thought reflected in the form of expressive work of art, namely literature (Rezaei & Seyyedrezaei, 2013). Freud's psychoanalytic theory would later become the foundation of future theorists. However, his proposal received several criticisms from several theorists. They speculated that the reader might uncover the hidden meaning within the text by interpreting how the literature is idealized by its author rather than to believe in the unconscious motive behind it (Rajan, 2017: 2-3). The critics of Freud's psychoanalytic theory led to the creation of Neo-Freudianism. Neo-Freudianism is a group of theorists who altered and developed Freud's work on psychoanalysis. Neo-Freudianism includes several grand theorists like Jung, Erikson, Adler, and Horney.

Psychoanalysis is the most well-known approach to performing psychological literary criticism. According to Whitehead (2016), the more appropriate way to pursue psychological literary criticism would be to understand psychoanalysis's implicit and informal theory, match it with the most suitable explicit formal theory, and then use that combined theory systematically as a lens to analyze the literary work. Concerning this research, the researcher will use the

theory of Karen Horney's social psychoanalytic as a key foundation to analyze the literary work of Uzodinma Iweala's *Beasts of No Nation*.

## **B. The Development of Psychoanalytic Theory**

Psychoanalysis theory is the earliest approach to the study of personality. It was proposed firstly by Sigmund Freud in the late 19th century (Schultz and Schultz, 2009: 45). Freud highlights the importance of early experiences with parents as the foundation to broadly shape the development of individual personality. He emphasizes that behavior is only a surface characteristic. The understanding of an individual's personality development requires an in-depth analysis of the symbolic meaning of behavior and the workings of the mind (Santrock, 2011: 22).

Freud's emphasis on early experiences is based on the belief that an infant is driven by instinct to obtain a form of bodily pleasure derived from the mouth, anus, and genitals, the erogenous zones that define the stages of development during the first 5 years of life (Schultz and Schultz, 2017: 52). This gradual development become the key concept to his four stages of development. Freud's four stages of development involve the oral, anal, phallic, latency, and genital phases. Each stage is determined by the way they resolve conflicts between sources of pleasure at each stage and the demands of reality which later highly influence adult personality (Santrock, 2011: 22).

In the future, Freud's theory become a foundation for neo-psychoanalytic theorists. Neo-psychoanalytic theorists criticize Freud's proposal about instinct as the primary driver for the development of individual personality. One of the Neo-

psychoanalytic theorists was Carl Gustav Jung. Jung broadened Freud's psychoanalytic theory redefining it as a more generalized dynamic force. He believed that part of the personality is innate, and part is learned. The ultimate life goal is individuation. Childhood experiences are important, but personality is more affected by midlife experiences and hopes for the future (Schultz and Schultz, 2009: 126). Another Neo-psychoanalytic theorist was Alfred Adler. Adler redefines Freud's psychoanalytic theory by minimalizing the role of instinct. In Adler's view, people are unique, and they possess free will and the ability to shape their development. Although childhood experiences are important, we are not victims of them (Schultz and Schultz, 2009: 155). Another Neo-psychoanalytic theorist was Karen Horney. Horney differed from Freud in her views on feminine psychology and her emphasis on social rather than biological forces as shapers of personality. Each person is unique and is not doomed to conflict. Although childhood influences are important, later experiences also shape personality. The ultimate goal of life is self-realization, an innate urge to grow, which can be helped or hindered by social forces. According to Horney, we can consciously shape and change our personalities (Schultz and Schultz, 2009: 179).

### **C. Karen Horney's Social Psychoanalytic Theory**

Karen Horney's social psychoanalytic theory was proposed and developed after Freud's rigid psychoanalysis that emphasizes all behavior and personality from libido and instinct. The basic tenets of her theory come initially from her childhood experiences. Karen Clementine Danielsen Horney was born in

Hamburg, Germany on September 16, 1885, to a parent who had a marital discord. She studies for a medical degree at the Universities of Freiburg, and Gottingen, and graduated from the University of Berlin in 1911. In the same year, she became a member of the Berlin Psychoanalytic Society headed by Karl Abraham (O'Connell, 1980). During this time, Horney found Freud's psychoanalytic concepts at odds with her observations. Henceforth, she began to develop her thought to redefine psychoanalysis by replacing Freud's biological orientation with an emphasis on culture and interpersonal relationships (Paris, 1996).

Horney believes that the early years of childhood are important for shaping personality. But, unlike Freud who stressed libido and instinct as the main drive for behavior and personality, Horney deems that the primary drive for behavior and personality comes from social forces. This encompasses primarily family constellation which is "the most important component of the child's environment" (Horney, 1950), then followed by peers, and the larger societal surround. Interpersonal, social, and cultural forces serve as the drives that give meaning rather than the other way around (Smith, 2006). These processes can be either universal developmental stages or childhood conflicts (Miletic, 2002). Childhood conflicts are also not impossible to avoid or resolve if the child is raised in a loving, tolerant, warm environment (Feiring, 1983). This means that individual psychological development and condition are majorly influenced by their experiences in their life.

Moreover, the conflicts, hardships, and problems people face in their life are manifested in psychological issues such as excessive fear, anxiety, anger, depression, and so forth (Satriawan & Rahayu, 2020). This means that one's perception and reaction closely affected their psychological conditions and are reflected through their behavior. When a person experiences unpleasant events in their life or is cornered in a threatening position, they will develop a neurotic personality as Horney addressed in her theory. This is caused by various causes including conflict with themselves or their relationship with others. One of the causes of one's neurotic condition is the gap in power or the relationship between the superior and subordinate which can be seen in everyday life (Rahayu & Mediyansyah, 2020). It means that an unequal relationship is prone to cause neurotic conditions which vary in intensity and further lead to hostility, anxiety, and other negative impulses.

#### **D. Basic Evil, Basic Hostility, and Basic Anxiety**

Children can feel keenly whether love is genuine, and cannot be fooled by any faked demonstrations. They might stand a great deal of what is often regarded as traumatic such as sudden weaning, occasional beating, and sex experiences as long as inwardly he feels wanted and loved. Parents' incapacity to give it on account of their neuroses will result in a poor parenting style that Horney refers to with the term basic evil. Parents often don't realize that the essential lack of warmth is camouflaged and claim to have in mind the children's best interests. This lead to children not receiving enough warmth and affection. (Horney, 1937: 80).



If parents do not meet the child's need for warmth and affection, the child will develop basic feelings of hostility towards the parent. However, children rarely express this hostility openly. Instead, they suppress their hostility towards their parents and have no awareness of it. Suppressed hostility then leads to deep feelings of insecurity and a vague sense of fear (Feist and Feist, 2009: 168). This condition is called basic anxiety. It is refer to an insidiously increasing, all-pervading feeling of being lonely and helpless in a hostile world. Regardless of how basic anxiety is expressed, the feeling is similar in the way individuals feel small, insignificant, helpless, deserted, and endangered, in a world that is out to abuse, cheat, attack, humiliate, and betray. It is acute individual reactions to individual provocations that crystallize into character attitudes. This attitude is not a neurosis but a trigger in which a certain neurosis can develop at any time (Horney, 1937: 89).

Basic anxiety might arise without any particular stimulus in the actual situation (Horney 1937: 90). Considered the example of a young man with repressed hostility who went on a hiking trip in the mountains with a young woman with whom he was deeply in love. His repressed hostility, however, also led him to become jealous of the woman. While walking on a dangerous mountain pass, the young man suddenly suffered a severe “anxiety attack” in the form of rapid heart rate and heavy breathing. The anxiety resulted from a seemingly inappropriate but conscious impulse to push the young woman over the edge of the mountain pass (Feist and Feist, 2009: 168).

Basic anxiety is also inseparably intertwined with basic hostility. If the overall neurotic picture is compared to the state of political anxiety in a country, the underlying anxiety and hostility will be similar to underlying discontent and protest against the regime. Surface manifestations may be entirely missing in either case, or they may appear in diversified forms. In the states, they may appear as riots, strikes, assemblies, and demonstrations. Whereas, in the psychological field as well, other forms of anxiety can manifest themselves in a variety of symptoms (Horney 1937: 90). For example, Children who feel threatened by their parents develop reactive hostility in defense of that threat. This reactive hostility, in turn, may create additional anxiety, thus completing the interactive circle between hostility and anxiety (Feist and Feist, 2009: 168).

Originally, Horney (1937) identified four ways in protecting ourselves against basic anxiety. The first way is through securing affection and love. By getting affection and love from others, the individual may think “If you loved me, you wouldn't hurt me.” There are several ways to get affection, such as trying to do whatever the other person wants, trying to bribe someone else, or threatening the other into providing the desired affection (Schultz and Schultz, 2009: 164).

The second way is through being submissive. Being submissive as a means of self-protection involves fulfilling the desires of any particular person or everyone in the particular social circle. Submissive individuals avoid doing anything that might be hostile to others. They dare not criticize or offend. They must suppress their desires and cannot defend themselves against harassment for fear that such self-defense will be hostile to the abuser. Most people who act

submissive believe that they are selfless and self-sacrificing. Such people seem to think, "If I give up, I won't get hurt." (Schultz and Schultz, 2009: 164).

The third way is through attaining power. By attaining power over others, one can compensate for their powerlessness and achieve security through success or a sense of superiority. Such people seem to believe that "if they have power, nothing will harm them." (Schultz and Schultz, 2009: 164).

The fourth way is through withdrawing. In this case, withdrawing is done by means psychologically, not physically. Withdrawn individuals try to be independent of others and not depend on others for the satisfaction of internal or external needs. Such individuals achieve independence with respect to internal or psychological needs by being distant from others, no longer seeking them out to satisfy emotional needs. The process involves blunting, or minimizing, emotional needs. By abandoning these needs, the withdrawn person keeps himself from being hurt by others. For example, if a person accumulates a myriad of possessions, then he can rely on them to meet external needs. Unfortunately, that person may be too burdened by basic anxiety to enjoy the treasure. He had to guard those items with care as they were the person's only protection against anxiety (Schultz and Schultz, 2009: 165).

### **E. Neurotic Needs**

Neurotic needs are self-protective mechanisms that can become so permanently a part of the personality that it assumes drive or need characteristics in determining an individual's behavior. It serves to motivate individuals to seek security and reassurance rather than happiness or pleasure. They are a defense

against pain, not a pursuit of well-being. These mechanisms may reduce anxiety, but the cost to the individual is usually an impoverished personality because of its characteristic that is often more compelling than sexual or other physiological needs. (Schultz and Schultz, 2009: 165). Neurosis needs are divided into ten categories that characterize neurotics in their attempts to combat basic anxiety. The ten categories of neurosis need to overlap one another, and an individual might employ more than one. Each of the following neurosis needs relates in some way or another (Feist and Feist, 2009: 169). The following elaboration will explain each of the ten neurosis needs:

1. The neurotic need for affection and approval

People with a neurotic need for affection and approval often pursue affection and approval in attempt to indiscriminately to please others. They tend to live up others expectation, fear self-affirmation, quite uncomfortable with other people's hostility, and feel hostile to themselves.

2. The neurotic need for a powerful partner

People with a neurotic need for a strong partner tend to lack self-confidence. They usually try to attach themselves to a strong partner. These needs include an overestimation of love and a fear of being alone or abandoned.

3. The neurotic need to restrict one's life within narrow borders

People with a neurotic need to restrict one's life within narrow borders often strive to remain inconspicuous, to take second place, and to be content with

very little. They lower their own abilities and are afraid to make demands on others.

4. The neurotic need for power

People with a neurotic need for power tend to control others and to avoid feelings of weakness or inferior. The need for power is usually combined with the needs for prestige and possession.

5. The neurotic need to exploit others

People with a neurotic need to exploit others tend to frequently evaluate others on the basis of how they can be used or exploited, but at the same time, they fear being exploited by others.

6. The neurotic need for social recognition or prestige

People with a neurotic need for social recognition or prestige are known to combat basic anxiety by trying to be first, to be important, or to attract attention to themselves.

7. The neurotic need for personal admiration

People with a neurotic need for personal admiration feel the need to be admired for what they are rather than for what they have. Their inflated self-esteem must be constantly fed by the admiration and approval of others.

8. The neurotic need for ambition and personal achievement

People with a neurotic need for ambition and personal achievement have a strong drive to be the best such as the best salesman, the best bowler, the best lover. They have to beat others to ensure their superiority.

9. The neurotic need for self-sufficiency and independence

People with a neurotic need for self-sufficiency and independence have a strong need to get away from other people, thereby proving that they can get along without other people. The playboy that no woman can bond with exemplifies this neurotic need.

10. The neurotic need for perfection and unassailability

People with a neurotic need for perfection and unassailability tend to strive relentlessly for perfection. They need other people to accept "proof" of their self-worth and personal superiority. They are afraid of making mistakes and having personal flaws, and they desperately try to hide their weaknesses from others

Horney notes that we all embody this need to some degree. For example, at one time or another, everyone was looking for affection or the pursuit of achievement. None of the needs is abnormal or neurotic in an everyday. What makes them neurotic is their intensive and compulsive pursuit of their gratification as the only way to overcome basic anxiety. Satisfying this need won't help us feel safe and secure, but will aid only in our desire to escape the discomfort caused by our anxiety. Also, when we pursue the satisfaction of this need solely to overcome

anxiety, we tend to focus on only one need and compulsively seek its satisfaction in all situations (Schultz and Schultz, 2009: 166).

## **F. Neurotic Trends**

Neurotic trends are directional movements to satisfy neurotic needs. It involves compulsive attitudes and behaviors so that a neurotic person will behave according to at least one of the neurotic trends (Schultz and Schultz, 2009: 166). However, although these neurotic trends constitute Horney's theory of neurosis, they also apply to normal individuals. There is, of course, an important difference between normal and neurotic attitudes. Whereas normal people are mostly or fully aware of their strategies toward others, neurotics are not aware of their basic attitudes; although normal people are free to choose their actions, neurotics are forced to act; whereas normal people experience mild conflict, neurotic people experience severe and unresolved conflict; and while normal people can choose from a variety of strategies, neurotics are limited to one trend (Feist and Feist, 2009: 171).

Neurosis trends are divided into three groups that indicate a person's attitudes toward the self and others. The three basic attitudes include moving toward people, moving against people, and moving away from people. The three attitudes also be called the compliant personality (moving toward people), the aggressive personality (moving against people), and the detached personality (moving away from people) (Feist and Feist, 2009: 170).

### **1. The compliant personality**

The concept of a compliant personality means an individual will move towards other people about protecting oneself against feelings of helplessness. In their efforts to protect themselves from feelings of helplessness, compliant people use one or both the neurotic needs for the affection and approval of others, or they seek a strong partner who will take responsibility for their lives. Ultimately, this personality was referred to as “unnatural dependence”, a concept anticipating the term “co-dependence” (Feist and Feist, 2009: 172).

The neurosis trends to move toward people involves a complex set of strategies. It is a whole way of thinking, feeling, and acting as a whole way of living. Neurotics who adopt this philosophy tend to see themselves as loving, generous, unselfish, humble, and sensitive to the feelings of others. They are willing to submit to others, to see others as smarter or more attractive, and to judge themselves according to what others think of them (Feist and Feist, 2009: 172).

## **2. The aggressive personality**

Just as compliant people assume that everyone is good, aggressive people take it for granted that everyone is hostile. As a result, they adopt a strategy of moving against people. Neurotically aggressive people are just as compulsive as compliant people. Their behavior is also driven by basic anxiety. Instead of moving toward people with an attitude of subservience and dependence, these people move against others by appearing tough or ruthless. They are motivated by a strong need to exploit others and use them for their benefit. They rarely admit



their mistakes and are compulsively driven to appear perfect, strong, and superior (Feist and Feist, 2009: 172).

Five out of ten neurotic needs are associated with neurotic trends moving against people. They include the need to be strong, to exploit others, to receive recognition and prestige, to be admired, and to excel. Aggressive people play to win, not for fun. They may appear to be hard-working and resourceful at work, but they enjoy the job itself less. Their basic motivation is power, prestige, and personal ambition. (Feist and Feist, 2009: 172).

### **3. The detached personality**

To solve the basic conflict of isolation, some people behave in detached ways and adopt neurotic trends away from people. This strategy is an expression of the need for privacy, independence, and self-sufficiency. Again, each of these needs can lead to positive behavior, with some people meeting these needs in healthy ways. However, this need becomes neurotic when people try to satisfy it by compulsively placing emotional distance between themselves and others (Feist and Feist, 2009: 173).

Many neurotics feel that getting along with other people is an intolerable strain. As a result, they are compulsively driven to move away from people, to achieve autonomy and separateness. They often build their world and refuse to let anyone get close to them. They value freedom and independence and often appear aloof and unapproachable. If married, they maintain their detachment even from their spouse. They avoid social commitments, but their biggest fear is needing other people (Feist and Feist, 2009: 173).

All neurotics need to feel superior, but detached people have a strong need to be powerful. Their basic feeling of alienation can only be tolerated by the self-deceived belief that they are perfect and therefore cannot be criticized. They fear competition, fear the blow to their illusory sense of superiority. Instead, they prefer that their hidden greatness be acknowledged without any effort on their part (Feist and Feist, 2009: 172).

## **CHAPTER III**

### **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

This chapter exhibit the analysis of Uzodinma Iweala's *Beasts of No Nation*. Firstly, the writer will describe the cause of Agu's neurotic trends. The cause of Agu's neurotic trends includes the formation of Agu's basic anxiety. Then, the writer will discuss the result of Agu's behavior in accordance with Horney's neurotic trends theory. The result will display Agu's personality as either a compliant personality, aggressive personality, detached personality, or may be the combination of two of that personalities or perhaps the combined three of them.

#### **A. The Causes of Agu's Neurotic Trends**

The causes of neurotic trends represented by Agu in the novel consist of several aspects including repressed hostility and conflict. The repressed hostility shown by Agu in the novel is rooted in the feeling of fear and anxiety which is stimulated by the danger he has to face as a soldier in the middle of a war. Meanwhile, the conflict that is also the cause of Agu's neurotic trends is rooted in the inner conflict Agu has as a human being where he is torn between maintaining his humanity and keeping his responsibility as a soldier at war. The analysis and explanation of each cause are presented in the following sub-section.

##### **1. Repressed Hostility as the Cause of Agu's Neurotic Trends**

The feeling of hostility refers to anger, aggression, rebelliousness, and any other hostile impulses (Horney, as cited in Schultz and Schultz, 2009). This means

that repressed hostility is closely related to the repressed feelings or desires that an individual hold within themselves. The repressed hostility further affected one's personality into becoming more compliant and obedient. The compliant and obedient personality is seen in Agu as he repressed his hostility towards the commandant. In detail, Uzodinma Iweala's *Beasts of No Nation* captures the phenomenon of repressed hostility because of fear frequently experienced by the main character, Agu. He is a boy whose country happened to be at war. The war brought a major shift in Agus' life. His mother and young brother were forced to evacuate because the village he lived in was no longer safe. Moreover, his father was killed in a gunfight. Agu was forced to flee to save his life by himself. Unfortunately, he was captured by the rebel forces. At the time of his capture, he was in a condition where he had to repress his hostility because of fear of being killed. The following quotation proves Agu's repressed hostility:

“I am looking and seeing his smile and feeling his hand on my face touching me softly. I am seeing all of the soldier with gun and knife and then I am thinking about my father just dancing like that because of bullet. What I supposed to be doing? So I am joining. Just like that. I am a soldier” (p. 11)

The quotation above shows Agu's fear that he will suffer the same fate as his father. At that time, Agu knew what might happen if he rebelled. He still remembers how his father had died after getting caught in a gunfight caused by these kinds of people. Considering those fact, Agu is obviously had a feeling of hostility towards the kind of people who caused the death of his father. Agu's hostility feeling is reflected in the statement “*I am seeing all of the soldier with gun and knife and then I am thinking about my father just dancing like that because of bullet.*” However, he also knows that bold expression of that kind of

feeling will threaten his life. This leave him confused as the statement “*What I supposed to be doing?*” reflected. Ultimately, he had to repress his hostility by joining the rebel forces as reflected in the following statement “So I am joining. Just like that. I am a soldier”.

As a soldier, he is now charged with the duty of either killing the enemy or being killed by the enemy. However, the horror of war still following Agu’s mind even though he is now a soldier who fight for rebel forces. This phenomenon is reflected in the quotation that will portrayed below:

“LIE DOWN! Commandant is shouting. Put your hand on the ground. They are lying down and I can see the tear on the face of one enemy. He is coughing and sniffing and whispering. I think he is saying, I am not wanting to die. Please God. I am think this is what he is saying and I am looking at him and even feeling sorry for him, but then I remembering my father.” (p. 17)

The quotation above shows Agu’s doubt as a soldier. As a soldier of the rebel forces, Agu knows that the people who ambushed by the rebel forces is the government forces that obviously his enemy. However, he was still burdened with his conscience that reflected in the statement “I am looking at him and even feeling sorry for him”. At the same time, he also couldn't forget why he had to accept the reality as he was now just as reflected in the statement “but then I remembering my father”. Ultimately, the quotation above reflects no evidence of Agu’s choices at the time. Agu is the victim of the war caused by both sides. Naturally, Agu will feel hostile towards either rebel forces or government forces. However, as a boy who still helpless, he can only repress his hostility towards both sides by acting remain neutral without taking sides in either rebel forces or government forces although he is now a part of the rebel forces.

For Agu who is still a boy, Commandant is a figure of leader as he is a soldier in his rebel forces as well as a figure of parents who is expected to provide a sense of security and affection. In Agu's several points of view, commandant is a great man who he regarded as a real soldier. However, commandant is also a figure that makes Agu feel scared because of his ruthless attitude towards his enemy. In cases of war and military matters, commandant attitude is a normal and natural thing to happen. But for Agu, it is a very burdensome thing that affect his mental and his mind. The phenomenon is reflected in this following quotation:

"I am not a bad boy. I am a soldier and soldier is not bad if he is killing. I am telling this to myself because soldier is supposed to be killing. So if I am killing, then I am only doing what is right. I am singing a song to myself because I am hearing too many voice in my head telling me I am a bad boy. They are coming from all around me and buzzing in my ear like mosquito and each time I am hearing them, they are choking my heart and making my stomach to turn. so I am singing." (p. 23)

The quotation above shows Agu's burden as a soldier. Agu who was once an ordinary boy who previously lived as an ordinary child, killing is something new that is terrible for him. Agu is still hasn't fully accepted the reality of himself as a soldier of the rebel army. Even though he realized that he is now a soldier, Agu's identity isn't entirely dedicated as a soldier. Part of himself still regard him as a boy is reflected in the statement "I am not a bad boy. I am a soldier and soldier is not bad if he is killing." The statement also implied that as a boy, Agu doesn't want to be regarded as a bad boy because bad boy often ends up being punished. This leads to an interpretation where Agu demand love and affection for being a good boy. At some point, Agu thinks that killing is something bad for a boy. However, he also recognizes that killing is something common in soldier life. In conclusion, Agu's identity as a boy must repress his hostility towards

Commandant for making him a bad boy because he is now a soldier of rebel forces under his command. For Agu as a soldier, he must obey Commandant's order because it will please him and if it's please him then Agu will be recognized as a good soldier and then he will be treated properly.

The day of being a soldier of the rebel forces keep haunting Agu's mind like a constant nightmare. Deep inside, he just wants to be an ordinary boy who is loved and cared by his parent. But because of the war, he must be willing to let go of his dead father and mother who managed to escape from the war zone. Now as he is a soldier of the rebel forces, the closest parent figure is his commandant. However, Commandant's duty is leading his army, not taking care a boy like Agu. Therefore, if Commandant issue order, Agu must obey his command even though his command is against his own conscience. The phenomenon is reflected in this following quotation:

“Commandant is saying we are going to raid one village. Where is the village, I am asking myself. and what are we to be taking from them? I am not knowing, but I am not going to be asking or he might be beating me.” (p. 35)

The quotation above reflected Agu's objection too commandant's order. Although Agu had been trained and treated like a soldier, he still can't deny his own conscience as a good boy. Therefore, when the Commandant issue an order in the statement “we are going to raid one village”, Agu just helpless in his own confusion which reflected in the statement “Where is the village, I am asking myself. and what are we to be taking from them?”. It is also reflected that Agu is actually repressing his hostility towards Commandant in the statement “I am not knowing, but I am not going to be asking or he might be beating me.” In that

statement, Agu intends to question the commander's orders. However, as a helpless boy, Agu can only follow what the commander has ordered or else he is afraid he will be punished for questioning the commander's orders. In conclusion, Agu had to repress his hostility in term of “I must repress my hostility because I am afraid of you.”

In fact, Agu is actually never intended to follow commandant at all. His conscience knows that raiding a village isn't the right thing to do. All that is Agu wanted is living in peace not at war. However, Agu is now in no position to make that think happen. As helpless boy he knows that he can only repress his hostility towards all his hostile environment. The phenomenon is reflected in this following quotation:

“We are not wanting to fight. We are tired of fighting, I am saying to him, one day there will be no more war and we can be living together in a house and eating all of the food we are wanting to eat. Are you hearing me? he is not acting like he is hearing anything I am saying because he knows it is lie. We will always be fighting war, but sometimes it is nice to be thinking that there is something else for our future. Suddenly Luftenant is shouting, IT IS FOURTEEN HUNDREED HOUR, and I am hearing the voice of Commandant saying come on! Get ready! Time to go”  
(p. 37)

The quotation above shows Agu's true feeling. His feeling as an ordinary boy hoped this war is over so that he can be living in peace just as reflected by statement “We are not wanting to fight. We are tired of fighting, I am saying to him, one day there will be no more war and we can be living together in a house and eating all of the food we are wanting to eat.” Moreover, Agu also knows that it is only his imagination just as reflected in the statement “he is not acting like he is hearing anything I am saying because he knows it is lie. We will always be fighting war, but sometimes it is nice to be thinking that there is something else



for our future.” Just as Agu imagine what is like to be live in piece, Lieutenant announces it's time for the raid, followed by Commandant's order that reflected in the statement “come on! Get ready! Time to go” In conclusion, although the quotation didn't directly reflect Agu's hostility for war and the environment in the rebel forces, it can be interpreted that Agu is demanding safety and affection from a peaceful situation.

Therefore, it can also be interpreted that his current condition which is at war is a condition that he didn't expect. Thus, because Agu didn't expect this war condition, it can be concluded that Agu himself is feeling hostile towards his own condition. But, as already mentioned before, Agu can do nothing beside following Commandant's order like he is in this current war.

As a boy, Agu needs attention and approval from parent figure in which in this case is the Commandant. Beside those needs, Agu also needs the presence of peer in which this case is a boy named Strika. Those two needs are something that can soothe Agu in his current state. However, Agu couldn't deny that he was also a soldier who had to obey order. Although he always hoped for attention and recognition from Commandant as well as the desire to always be close to Strika, he couldn't do anything if Commandant ordered him not to be on the same team with Strika. However, in a condition where the commander seems to be not paying attention and acknowledging everything he has done while obeying his orders. This phenomenon is reflected in this following quotation:

“I am angry that Commandant is not taking me and Strika together and I am fighting very hard to get into the back of truck first so at least I am not having to stand and be too tired wherever I we are going to raid.” (p. 39)

The quotation above shows Agu's objection being separated from Strika and being not acknowledged for his effort. The quotation is also clearly reflected Agu's hostility towards Commandant in the statement "I am angry that Commandant is not taking me and Strika together". However, there is no depiction where Agu questioning Commandant's order. Those implied that Agu can do nothing but repressing his hostility towards Commandant. This kind of phenomenon possibly happen because of the same reason as the statement "I must repress my hostility because I am afraid of you."

Agu's state of repressing his hostility towards his hostile environment around rebel forces is getting intense up to the point where he no longer realizes why he doing something terrible such raiding, killing and looting from village and villager. He no longer realizes that he already falls under the paradox of repressing hostility. He had become like that because of the influence from rebel forces environment. This phenomenon is reflected in the quotation that will depicted below:

"How can I know what is happening? it is like one day everything is somehow okay even if we are fighting war, but the next day we are killing and looting from everybody. How can I know what is happening to me?" (p. 52)

The quotation above shows that Agu begins to losing his conscience mind. The quotation clearly reflects Agu's behavior to following order without any second thought like he once used to be. This indicates Agu's state of repressing hostility had fall under his unconscious mind. He is no longer aware of doing something terrible either it was before he does it or it was when does it. All that's left is regret after doing it just as reflected in the statement "How can I know what

is happening to me?” In conclusion, Agu’s state of repressing hostility because of fearing the Commandant had lead him to become savages who willing to do something terrible. It can be said that Agu already get rid of his conscience in order to gain safety and approval from Commandant.

## **2. Conflict as the Cause of Agu’s Neurotic Trends**

Conflict as the cause of Agu’s neurotic trend refers to the conflict he has between his humanity and the sense of responsibility as soldier. The conflict is seen through Agu’s struggle between maintaining his humanity which is not to do violence while the commandant of the team takes a full control of Agu which further puts him in a place where he cannot go against his command for the sake of his own safety. Horney (as cited in Schultz and Schultz, 2009) explained that conflict is the core of neurosis as human beings naturally struggle with conflict whether in neurotic condition or not. This means that conflict is the basic cause of neurotic trends where the intensity more likely to be higher than the one suffered by non-neurotic individual. Relating to the novel, Agu’s condition as rebel forces’ soldier inflicted the conflict in the form of choosing between maintaining his remaining humanity or fulfilling his responsibility as soldier. The conflict is caused by the fact that if he denies or ignores Commandant’s order he will be punished in a hard way that Commandant always do to his disobedient soldier. On the other hand, obeying Commandant’s order mean that Agu must confront the enemy which is make him to choose whether kill the enemy or be killed by the enemy. This phenomenon is reflected in the following quotation that will portrayed below:

“I am happying to be back at the camp because it is nice here – at least nicer than having to be in place with all of its screaming people that you are killing all the time. And here, I am relaxing because there is no enemy that I have to be watching out for if they are wanting to kill me.” (p. 75)

The quotation above shows Agu won't do anything that reflected in the statement “in place with all of its screaming people that you are killing all the time” without Commandant giving him order to do that. The quotation also reflected that the only time Agu can relaxed is when the Commandant is not giving him any order at all just as depicted in the statement “And here, I am relaxing because there is no enemy that I have to be watching out for if they are wanting to kill me.” This indicate that beyond the order to raid, Agu can be in peace when he didn't receive any orders from Commandant. Those events can only occur during idle time at the camp.

Another evidence of conflict as the cause of neurotic trends is seen when Agu is able to be conscious for his conscience once again. He realized that obeying Commandant's order to raid and killing people isn't something right to do based on his conscience. Thus, he actually very eager to tell the Commandant that he is no longer want to obey his order. However, just like the cases before, Agu had no choice but to feel helpless considering the consequence that might arises when he is telling the Commandant that he is no longer want to obey his command. This phenomenon is reflected in the following quotation that will portrayed below:

“I am thinking that each time I should be telling him that I do not want to fight anymore and that he should let me go and become refugee so that at least I will not be having to kill people. but I know that if I am saying this to him, he will be doing the same thing he is doing when he is not happy” (p. 81)

The quotation above shows that Agu is fed up with his life as a soldier of the rebel forces. At this state, Agu is already starting to have thoughts on saying he is not willing to obey Commandant's order anymore. This is progress considering that he used to only be silent and keep it to himself that something bad should not be done by him. However, the fear of the consequences he received from Commandant as depicted by the statement "but I know that if I am saying this to him, he will be doing the same thing he is doing when he is not happy" makes him hard to do what he thinks.

For the second time, Agu realize that it is Commandant's order that caused him to be conflicted between doing the right thing or following his wicked command. Therefore, once again he is eager to tell Commandant that he is no longer want to follow his order. However, knowing what the commandant is capable of, Agu decided to stay silent and not voice out the conflict he has as human being that is faced with cruel situations. This phenomenon is reflected in the following quotation that will portrayed below:

"I want to be telling him that I cannot be fighting anymore, that my mind is becoming rotten like the inside of fruit. But I am knowing that if I am saying anything like this, he will be slapping me the way he is always slapping all the soldier until their bloody teeth is cutting his hand." (p. 89)

The quotation above shows Agu's conflict between doing the 'right' thing which refers to the humane behavior or following the commandant's order that causes him to feel like he is losing his sense of humanity. Just as the previous depiction, Agu planned on saying he is not willing to obey Commandant's order anymore. Agu's planning is reflected in the statement "I want to be telling him that I cannot be fighting anymore, that my mind is becoming rotten like the inside

of fruit.” However, just like before, Agu is still overshadowed by the fear of the consequences that will be obtained from Commandant in which depicted by statement “But I am knowing that if I am saying anything like this, he will be slapping me the way he is always slapping all the soldier until their bloody teeth is cutting his hand.” In the end, Agu is still trapped on the conflict he has within himself to go against the commandant or following his order to stay alive.

## **B. Agu’s Behavior Based on Neurotic Trends Classification**

Agu’s behavior that is represented in the novel is influenced by his own neurotic condition which is caused by the war and his responsibility as a soldier who participated in it. In overcoming his fear and anxiety as well as his own safety, Agu acts due to his needs and intention while surviving the war. Horney (as cited in Schultz and Schultz, 2009) divided neurotic needs of an individual into three major trends namely movement towards other people (compliant personality), movement against other people (aggressive personality), and movement away from other people (detached personality). Relating to Agu’s condition in the novel, he showed two kinds of neurotic trends that affect his behavior which is the compliant and aggressive personalities. Each of the neurotic trends consist of the neurotic needs that are further explained and analyzed in the following sections.

### **1. Compliant Personality**

The first neurotic trend represented through Agu is the compliant personality or the tendency to move toward other people. It is known that Agu is a

soldier where his behavior and action is determined by the commandant. This causes Agu to feel the need to be on the good side of the commandant in order to overcome his anxiety rooted from fear of death and pain although he has to do things that is against the humane morality. Agu's compliant personality is seen through the need for affection and approval and the need for a dominant partner. In the novel, it is shown that Agu fell into hostile environment of rebel forces. In such environment, Agu is a helpless boy who must constantly repress his hostility or else there will be dire consequences that might danger his life. Therefore, to constantly keep his hostility in check, Agu must combat his basic anxiety through his compliant personality which is seen from the need of affection and dominant partner. The phenomenon where Agu begin to pursuit neurotic need is reflected in the following quotation that will be portrayed below:

“He is stretching his glove to my face, grabbing it hard but also soft like he is caring for me, and then he is looking at all of the blood, and dirt, and mosquito bite, and mud I am having on me from dragging in the road” (p. 7)

The quotation above shows Agu's initial attempt to pursuit the needs for affection. Agu's need for affection is clearly reflected in the statement “like he is caring for me”. Those statement reflect Agu's current condition which has lost his father who died in the gun fight and his mother who flee from the war zone. Losing his parents compels Agu to seek affection from other people. In this case, Agu's seek affection from a man that is a commander of the rebel forces. Agu feels the commander's action of stretching his glove to Agu's face is a form of affection that he needed.

After the phenomenon that previously discussed, Agu became attached to a man who called himself Commandant. Agu begin to irrationally believe and obey in anything that Commandant said and order. Agung's obedient behavior towards Commandant is based on a situation where he has no other choice but to obey. The following quotation that will be portrayed below will reflect the phenomenon where Agu's shows his compliant behavior towards Commandant:

“Commandant is saying it is like falling in love. You cannot be thinking about it. You are just having to do it, he is saying. And I believing in him. What else I can be doing? They are all saying, stop worrying. Soon it will be your own turn and then you will know what it is feeling to be killing somebody.” (p. 12)

The quotation above shows Agu's compliant behavior that believe in what Commandant said. As a helpless boy who know nothing about military and war, Agu had nothing to do beside to believe in what Commandant and other soldier said. It is clearly reflected in the statement “What else I can be doing? They are all saying, stop worrying”.

As time goes by, Agu's compliant behavior changed from being based on innocence to a state of fear of being hostile to Commandant. Agu realizes that he can do nothing to resist Commandant without endanger his live. Therefore, he chooses to feel hostile to himself rather than hostile to Commandant. This phenomenon is reflected in the following quotation that will portray Commandant's action and Agu's action:

Commandant's action:

“He is grabbing my neck and whispering into my ear, kill him now because I am having no time oh. If you are not killing him, enh. Luftenant will be thinking you are spy. and who can know if he won't just be killing you”

Agu's action:



“Then I am hitting his shoulder and then his chest and looking at how commandant is smiling each time my knife is hitting the man.” (p. 20)

The quotation above shows Commandant’s compelling action towards Agu. Commandant did his action by threatening Agu as depicted in the statement “If you are not killing him, eh. Luftenant will be thinking you are spy. and who can know if he won’t just be killing you”. In response, Agu had no choice but to obey Commandant's orders. If Agu resist Commandant's orders, it means that he is hostile towards Commandant, and that is something Agu didn't want. Therefore, he prefers to be hostile towards himself and reluctantly obeys the commandant's orders. Agu’s behavior is well-matched with one of Horney’s proposal about neurotic trends. In accordance to Horney’s neurotic trends theory, Agu is classified under compliant personality neurotic trends. Specifically, Agu’s behavior is driven by the needs for affection and approval. In the above depiction, Agu’s need to be approved as an ally and fear to be approved as a spy. These needs become a driving force behind Agu’s behavior to boldly obey Commandant’s order and make him approved Agu as an ally.

Being a part of the rebel forces is something that Agu never expected or even wanted. However, fate has determined the path that Agu must take is to become a soldier of the rebel forces. In that case, Agu’s need to be approved as a soldier. Thus, it compels him to begin a live as a soldier. As a soldier, Agu must follow order just as the following depiction will portray:

“All the time just training. They are telling us to run up and down so we are running up and down like we are running race when I am school boy” (p. 32)

The quotation above shows how Agu's live as a soldier. In the depiction from statement "All the time just training. They are telling us to run up and down so we are running up and down", Agu had no choice but to obey the order to keep training because it is a part of the soldier live. He does that because he needs to be approved as a soldier who loyal to his officer. Otherwise, if he refuses to train, he will be labeled as a useless soldier or even worst as a spy. In conclusion, Agu's behavior from the above depiction still categorize as compliant personality that driven by the need for approval.

Agu's life as a soldier of rebel forces was full of unfavorable condition. Although he had become a neurotic compliant person, it didn't guarantee he will successfully compensate his basic anxiety. So, Agu had to come up with another approach if at the time he failed to compensate his basic anxiety with compliant personality. This phenomenon was reflected in the following quotation that will be depicted below:

"I am saying bye to strika and watching him walking away with commandant. I am just waiting for the gun juice to start to working so I am not having to think as much as anymore. Across the stream, I am feeling in my body something like electricity and I am starting to think: yes it is good to fight. I am liking how the gun is shooting and the knife is chopping. I am liking to see people running from me and people screaming for me when I am killing them and taking their blood. I am liking to kill."  
(p. 44)

The quotation above shows Agu's way to compensate his basic anxiety when fail to obtain Commandant's affection. Agu's failed to obtain Commandant's affection was reflected in the statement "I am saying bye to strika and watching him walking away with commandant". Because of that event, Agu was possessed by basic anxiety because of feeling inferior compared to Strika. At

that time Agu had no other choice but to find another way to compensate his basic anxiety. Agu solution to compensate his basic anxiety then revealed in the statement “I am just waiting for the gun juice to start to working so I am not having to think as much as anymore.” From the beginning, Agu as an ordinary boy was all about hate to hurting others. Now that he was a soldier of the rebel forces he had a duty to kill or defeated anyone deemed as an enemy. This principal was the reason Agu held back to be a good soldier of the rebel forces. But now he had a reason to be a good soldier of the rebel forces. The primary reason for that was his feeling of inferior in front of Commandant. With the help of a drug that he consumes, Agu now had a chance to prove his is not inferior to Commandant.

From the beginning of Agu’s compliant personality, Commandant was playing a big role for that to happen. As a role figure for Agu, Commandant’s words had a huge impact on Agu. His word is something that impossible to resist for Agu. It is only Commandant’s words that Agu can believe. This phenomenon was reflected in the following quotation that will be depicted below:

“Commandant is saying that she is just enemy, she is stealing our food, and killing my family because she is enemy” (p. 51)

The quotation above shows another example of Agu’s compliant behavior towards Commandant. In the depiction above, Agu was clearly believed and did what Commandant had said to him. In this matter, just like the previous explanation, it happens because Agu needs for affection and approval and also powerful partner in which he deemed he can obtained from Commandant.

In his live as a soldier of the rebel forces, Agu was observing and eventually put an interest on one figure. That figure was Commandant. As a boy who lost everything, Agu needs someone as a figure to look at. However, the way Agu look at Commandant was classified as overestimated. It happened because of the quotation that will be depicted below:

“I am not liking everything commandant likes even if I am supposed to be liking it. But I am liking his shiny forehead and his big nose that is covering his whole face and even his top lip, and I am liking how he is squeezing his chin and all of its hairs in his fist when he is thinking very hard. I am wanting beard so I can be doing that. Maybe then I will be feeling older and I won’t be tireding all the time. If you are commandant, you will be knowing that he is just very big man even though this war is coming to make most men like small like children and children small like baby.”  
(p. 33)

The quotation above shows Agu’s interest on Commandant. In this case, Agu’s interest can be classified as overestimate because of the statement “Maybe then I will be feeling older and I won’t be tireding all the time.” The statement implies meaning that Agu admires Commandant so much because he wants the authority that only the Commandant had. This behavior can be categorized as the need for powerful partner because Agu desire to became like Commandant was one of the way to resolve his basic anxiety. In the possible future, Agu’s way of thinking will make him compliant to Commandant’s order because wanted to be like him and he needed an exclusivity like him.

Now, even if Agu was already approved as a soldier of the rebel forces, he will be a compliant person. Agu’s compliant personality can be driven from the way he saw Commandant. Unlike before, now Agu’s is seeking the privilege that Commandant had. In other word, Agu was now seeking affection from a figure that he admires. Ultimately, this behavior may lead him to more favorable

conditions. This phenomenon was reflected in the following quotation that will be depicted below:

“Commandant is having smaller truck for himself which I am liking better because it is giving more comfort. Sometimes, if we are making him to happy, he is taking Strika and me to be riding in, But this is only sometimes.” (p. 38)

The quotation above shows Agu’s strive to obtain affection from Commandant. Agu's way to get affection from Commandant was reflected in the statement “if we are making him to happy, he is taking Strika and me to be riding in”. It is clear that Agu’s position as a soldier was less favorable than Commandant. This less favorable condition can be viewed as a factor that driven his basic anxiety. Therefore, to combat his basic anxiety, it is possible that Agu was often try to please Commandant to make him get the favor shared by Commandant. In this case, Agu’s compliant behavior was driven by need for affection from Commandant. By seeking affection from Commandant Agu had a chance to feel the privilege that Commandant had and relieve his basic anxiety.

Agu was getting used to his life as a soldier of rebel forces. Agu gradually regain his mind and conscience. It started when Agu realized that he was following a wrong figure. Agu who once admire Commandant as a powerful man and worthy to be followed was change into Agu who hated Commandant because of his dominance. This phenomenon was reflected in following depiction portrayed by the quotation below:

“Commandant is wanting to see me right now, I am not liking it when commandant is wanting to see me, but I am having to go otherwise it will be making him to angry.” (p. 80)

The quotation above shows Agu's awareness of the wrong decision to admire and hope to Commandant. Agu's regret was clearly reflected in the statement "I am not liking it when commandant is wanting to see me". It implies meaning that Agu already understand that he was only being used by Commandant. However, he also realizes that he must not hostile against Commandant just as reflected in the statement "but I am having to go otherwise it will be making him to angry". It is clear that Agu was rather hostile to himself in regard obeying Commandant's order. In this case, afraid to be hostile on other people and choosing to hostile to oneself is categorize as the need for affection and approval in which a part of the need that drive compliant personality.

Agu's compliant behavior to Commandant is now not driven by his admiration but rather pure from his need for privilege that Commandant had. On one side, Agu had strong hatred toward Commandant. On the other side, Agu had fear and privilege for being compliant to Commandant's wishes and order. Between the two choices, Agu chooses to be compliant just like the depiction of the following quotation that will be depicted below:

"Commandant is powerful more than me and he is also sometimes giving me small favor like more food or protection and other thing like shirt or trouser for doing this thing with him" (p. 83)

The quotation above shows Agu's compliant behavior that's driven by the needs of being privilege obtained from Commandant. Agu knows that he cannot or he is unable to be hostile towards Commandant. In addition, he also depended to the privilege that Commandant gave to him. This led to conclusion that Agu's

neurosis trend of being compliant person is driven by the neurotic need for approval from Commandant.

After sometime there were a revolt incident among the soldiers of the rebel forces. The revolt resulted on the death of Commandant who was shoot his subordinate named Rambo. After the revolt, Agu still cannot living by his will and need someone to be follow. So, he chose to follow Rambo like the depiction from the following quotation:

“We are tiring so much, but we are trying to reach some place. Where is this place? I am not knowing, but I am knowing that Rambo is saying we should not be stopping. So we are not stopping and we are walking through the whole night into the day.”  
(p. 127)

The quotation above shows that Agu still lives up to other people expectation. He still not able to be hostile to others and rather to choose hostile to himself. Agu’s fear to hostile to others was reflected in the statement “We are tiring so much, but we are trying to reach some place. Where is this place? I am not knowing, but I am knowing that Rambo is saying we should not be stopping.” In his thought, Agu feel he was tired and needed rest. But because of his fear to hostile to Rambo he decided to remain silence and continue to follow Rambo’s order to keep moving. It can be concluded that Agu’s compliant personality was driven by the needs to be approved as flock.

Agu's compliant personality didn't stop only because of the need to be approved as Rambo's flock but also the need to have a strong person like Rambo. This phenomenon was reflected in following depicted that will be portrayed by the quotation below:

“They cannot be leaving me behind because I am not knowing where I would be going in this bush. Imagine if they are leaving me for the bush and then I am being eaten by animal or other soldier who is sacrificing me to be winning this war.” (p. 128)

The quotation above shows that Agu still dependent on other people to live. Agu still need someone to follow or he will be fear being lost in this hostile world just like the depiction from the statement “Imagine if they are leaving me for the bush and then I am being eaten by animal or other soldier who is sacrificing me to be winning this war” Clearly Agu still had a feeling of fear being alone or abandoned. Therefore, it can be concluded that Agu’s compliant personality is also driven by the needs for powerful partner who can guide him in living life.

## **2. Aggressive Personality**

The second neurotic trend that affected Agu’s behavior is the aggressive personality. Aggressive personality has the similar purpose to compliant personality which is to overcome basic anxiety but it differs as aggressive personality assert dominance instead of displaying the fear (Horney, as cited in Schultz and Schultz, 2009). This means that aggressive personality has the pattern that goes against other people such as controlling, domineering, and showing aggression. Schultz and Schultz (2009) explained that aggressive personality includes several components including power, exploitation, prestige, admiration, and achievement. In the case of Agu’s condition, the aggressive personality is seen by power, anger, and exploitation or manipulation. This is seen from Agu’s attempt in masking his inferiority by aggression.



To mask up his inferiority feeling, Agu found a way that reflected in the following statement. “yes it is good to fight. I am liking how the gun is shooting and the knife is chopping. I am liking to see people running from me and people screaming for me when I am killing them and taking their blood. I am liking to kill.” The way for Agu’s take to avoid his inferiority was through the violence. Through a fight and killing enemy, Agu can satisfy the need for power. In accordance to Horney’s neurotic needs theory, Agu’s behavior falls under the classification of neurotic trends of aggressive personality.

Under the effect of a drug, Agu’s had become savages. Driven by failure to obtain affection from Commandant and self-entitled feeling as inferior, Agu’s willing to do violence. An action that previously against his own conscience as an ordinary by who loved peace. This phenomenon was reflected in the following quotation that will be depicted below:

“And on the path, we are coming to the edge of this village where there are the poor person house made of mud and tin and wood. There is nobody living inside so we are tearing them down and setting the thatch roof on fire and then we are moving on to more house Far away, I am hearing screaming and gun fire and my head is growing smaller and my body is growing bigger. I am wanting to kill; I don’t know why. I am just wanting to kill. I am seeing animal and I am wanting to kill it.” (p. 46)

The quotation above shows Agu’s change from once a peaceful boy into a relentless savage. Now, under the effect of a drug, Agu no longer had his conscience. It comes from the intention to compensate basic inferiority that Agu became him as depicted in the statement “I am wanting to kill; I don’t know why. I am just wanting to kill. I am seeing animal and I am wanting to kill it.” Worse than losing conscience, Agu now can't even tell whether his actions were right or

wrong. All that was matter just following his instinct to relieve his basic anxiety that caused by an event where he fails to obtain affection from Commandant and self-entitled feeling as inferior.

Possessed by overvaluation about himself who deem failed to obtain affection from Commandant and self-entitled feeling as inferior. Agu's mind began to stray away from the line of sane mind. He began to feel that someone must be at fault because of the fate that befell him. This phenomenon was reflected in the following quotation that will be depicted below:

“This woman is enemy. She is killing my family and burning my house and stealing my food and making my family to scatter. and this girl is enemy. she is killing my father and making me to run from my home.” (p. 49)

The quotation above shows that Agu had losing his mind under the effect of a drug. The intention to be a good soldier in order to looking not inferior and pleased Commandant had caused him to think irrational. Agu's irrational thinking was reflected in the statement “She is killing my family and burning my house and stealing my food and making my family to scatter.” In this case, Agu was traumatized by the exploitation that once he experienced. Therefore, now, Agu tries to exploit other so that he no longer experiences the exploitation that once he already experienced. Clearly, Agu's behavior was classified as an aggressive personality. This time, the above depiction shows that Agu's aggressive personality was driven by the needs to exploit others.

Forced to flee the village, his family is torn apart with his father killed in a gunfight and his mother fleeing the war zone, and falls into the world of war as a soldier of the rebel army, Agu's life was never been better ever since that series of

events happened to him. Agu can only surrender to his situation and try to compensate his basic anxiety over and over. Sometimes, Agu can be compliant person. But sometimes he can be an aggressive person just like the depiction from the following quotation below:

“You are not my mother, I am saying to the girl’s mother and then I am raising my knife high above my head. I am liking the sound of knife chopping KPWUDA KPWUDA on her head and how the blood is just splashing on my hand and my face and my feets.” (p. 51)

The quotation above shows Agu’s brutal action towards innocent people who he deemed as his enemy. Agu’s action was based on his effort to compensate his basic anxiety. In his past, he experienced the bitterness of being a person who couldn't do anything to prevent his life from changing as he is now. In conclusion, Agu’s brutal action was driven by his need to possess power so that he was no longer a helpless boy who cannot decide his fate.

During his life as a soldier of the rebel forces, Agu learned a lot about the bitterness of life. Agu became aware that survival requires struggle. As a soldier of the rebel forces, sometimes to survive it means raiding from others. This phenomenon is reflected in the following depiction that will depicted in the quotation:

“I am not knowing what this is meaning before I am a soldier, but now I am knowing that it means no breakfast, no lunch, only dinner. if you are wanting to eat when it is not dinner, then you are having to keep your dinner from before to be eating the next day. or if we are raiding or finding farm, then we can be eating” (p. 90)

The quotation above shows Agu’s way of thinking as a soldier of the rebel forces. In his mind, being a soldier means having to be strong in holding back hunger just like the depiction from the statement “now I am knowing that it means

no breakfast, no lunch, only dinner”. Circumstances often forces Agu to skip meals because there is nothing to eat. Ironically, Agu had to commit a crime just to be able to eat just like the depiction from the statement “or if we are raiding or finding farm, then we can be eating”.

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter is the closing chapter of the research and explains the summary of the results and discussion in the research. This chapter contains a conclusion which is a summary of the research findings and answers to the problem formulation and suggestions that contain suggestions for future researchers who conduct similar research or under the same discussion and focus.

#### A. Conclusion

The novel *Beast of No Nation* by Uzodinma Iweala told about the main character Agu who becomes a child soldier because of the war. The researcher tries to describe the cause of Agu's neurotic trends and analyze the influence of neurotic trends on Agu's behavior based on the novel *Beast of No Nation* by Uzodinma Iweala. The theory used is the Psychoanalytic theory by Karen Horney. The conclusions include two aspects consisting of the cause of Agu's neurotic trends and Agu's behavior based on neurotic trends classifications. The first conclusion refers to the causes of Agu's neurotic trends. Two main causes become the root of Agu's neurotic trends consisting the repressed hostility and conflict. Agu developed a neurotic personality as repressed hostility causes him into becoming submissive towards the commandant's demand. The second cause of Agu's neurotic trends in conflict. Conflict is known as the main cause of the neurotic condition and it varies in intensity. This particular conflict influence Agu's behavior and his neurotic condition where he cannot even decide for

himself. Another conclusion in this study covers Agu's behavior based on the neurotic trends classification. Agu's behavior which is influenced by his neurotic condition is seen in two out of three neurotic trends defined by Karen Horney. Agu's neurotic trends are a compliant personality and an aggressive personality. The neurotic trends are represented through Agu's behavior. A compliant personality is seen in Agu's behavior which moves toward affection, approval, and the need for a dominant partner. Agu's aggressive personality was driven by the need to survive by being strong, exploiting others, receiving recognition, being admired, and being excellent. Meanwhile, the aggressive personality is seen in how Agu overcomes his basic anxiety and fear by acting domineering and aggressive.

## **B. Suggestion**

The researcher suggests that future researchers can use this researcher as a reference for their research on a similar topic or problem, namely neurotic trends in a literary work under the umbrella of psychoanalytic studies so that this research can contribute to a more comprehensive and critical future discussion. The researcher also suggests to the next researcher to focus on other characters, because the limitations of this study require researchers to focus on Agu as the main character and the character that shows the cause and effect of neurotic trends.

Further research is also expected to discuss or conduct comparative studies on other psychological disorders experienced by the characters in this novel to allow further research to determine their relationship with one another. Finally,

the researcher suggests that future researchers can use different theories to get different results regarding the same psychological disorder that occurs in the main character, thus making a new contribution to literary criticism for the similar novel.

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## CURRICULUM VITAE



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