



**Sophie's Defense Mechanism in Her Struggle to Break the Curse in
Diana Wynne Jones' *Howl's Moving Castle***

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PRONOUNCEMENT

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

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MOTTO AND DEDICATION

*“Maybe the reason why all the doors are closed,
So you could open one that leads you to the perfect road.”*

(Katy Perry in *Firework*)

*“Before a new chapter is begun, the old one has to be finished:
tell yourself that what has passed will never come back.*

*Remember that there was a time when you could live without that thing or that person
nothing is irreplaceable, a habit is not a need.”*

(Paulo Coelho)

*I dedicate this thesis to my Mom and Dad,
my late younger brother and my youngest brother.*

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The writer has tried her best in completing this thesis. She realizes that this thesis is far from being perfect. The writer would be glad to receive any suggestion to help make a better work in the future. At last, the writer hopes that this thesis would be useful for the readers.

Semarang, August 2015

Ratnanggana Ausiyyah Mustika Perwita

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ABSTRACT

The experience that young people get has an effect to their personality and their problem solving. This is why older people tend to be more mature than the young people. In Diana Wynne Jones' *Howl's Moving Castle*, the main character has a development in her personality through experiences. Her experiences lead her to how she solves her problems while she unconsciously uses defense mechanism. In this case, in this study will be analyzed the characteristic of the main character, Sophie, when she faces a problem while using defense mechanism. The defense mechanism also helps Sophie to break her curse. The study uses psychoanalysis approach to analyze Sophie's defense mechanism. Her defense mechanism becomes a habit whenever she has problems. Sophie solves her problem not by making it clear, but by reacting toward her fear into its opposite acts (reaction formation). She also refuses to acknowledge the event that happens to her (denial), makes excuse for the things she does (rationalization), and suppresses her unwanted feeling into something pleasant (suppression). Her defense mechanism soon changes her personality without her notification and it helps her reach the goal she thinks she will never get, that is to have an interesting future.

Keywords: psychoanalysis, defense mechanism, struggle, break, curse

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Family and society affect someone's personality development. In the days of ancient Europe, the society believes that being the first child in a family brings misfortune and failure. Family and society's treatment toward the first child convince him that it is true. He tends to stick on this believe and affects his daily behaviors. This condition is reflected in the popular literature entitled *Howl's Moving Castle*.

Howl's Moving Castle is a novel about a girl named Sophie, who is destined to be born as the first daughter with two siblings. She believes in a doctrine about being an eldest makes her less fortunate than the other siblings. The myth affects much on how she reacts to everything that happens in her life. Instead of trying hard to change her life, she accepts it as inevitability. Therefore, when she lives in a situation that she does not want, she keeps thinking that it is her fate. She thinks that nothing needs to be changed. She is in denial when she tries to ignore the undesirable things that happen to her. This condition begins to change after she is cursed by a witch to become an old lady. She is trying her best to breaks the spell and seek for her fortune to make a better living. Her condition in which she becomes an old lady helps her to change herself and her life.

The novel is about Sophie's struggles to break her curse and to get an interesting life. To analyze further about her struggle and defense mechanism to free herself from a

curse and the things that happen to her during her journey, the study is entitled “Sophie’s Defense Mechanism in Her Struggle to Break the Curse in Diana Wynne Jones’ *Howl’s Moving Castle*”.

1.2 Research Problems

In composing this research, there are three main questions related to the topic and to be answered later in the discussion. They are:

1. How is Sophie’s behavior in facing her problems in Diana Wynne Jones’ *Howl’s Moving Castle*?
2. What is Sophie’s problems and how defense mechanism is used to solve her problems in Diana Wynne Jones’ *Howl’s Moving Castle*?
3. How defense mechanism helps Sophie break her curse in Diana Wynne Jones’ *Howl’s Moving Castle*?

1.3 Objectives of The Study

Based on the background of the study and research problems above, the object of the study are:

- 1.3.1 To reveal Sophie’s habit when she faces her problems in Diana Wynne Jones’ *Howl’s Moving Castle*.
- 1.3.2 To reveal Sophie’s problems and how Sophie uses defense mechanism to face her problems in Diana Wynne Jones’ *Howl’s Moving Castle*.
- 1.3.3 To reveal how defense mechanism helps her break the curse in Diana Wynne Jones’ *Howl’s Moving Castle*.

1.4 Method of the Study

This study employs two methods: method of research and method of approach.

1.4.1 Method of the Research

Method of research is a method that is used to find out, develop, and examine the truth of knowledge based on facts and available data. This study uses library research as the method of the research. Semi maintains that library research is a research done by the researcher collects the material from a library, where the writer gets the data and information about her research object from books or other audiovisual media (1990: 8). This study uses two sources of data, primary source and secondary source. The primary source is novel *Howl's Moving Castle* written by Diana Wynne Jones, whereas the secondary source consists of books, articles, electronic sources, and the internet which are related to the topic of the thesis.

1.4.2 Method of Approach

Method of approach used in this study is a psychological approach. Wellek and Warren on psychology literature states:

By 'psychology of literature', we may mean the psychological study of the writer, as type and as individual, or the study of the creative process, or the study of the psychological types and laws present within works of literature, or, finally, the effects of literature upon its readers (audience psychology) (1976:81).

Since this study is made in order to analyze the main character of the novel, it means that the psychological study of the work is going to be used. For more detail, the study uses the psychological approach called defense mechanism as its method to analyze the main character of the novel.

1.5 Organization of the Writing

From the analysis about the methods and the scope of the study, this paper will be arranged in chapters and sub-chapters as follows:

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

It contains Background of the Study, Research Problem, Objectives of the Study, Methods of the Study, and Organization of the Writing.

CHAPTER 2 DIANA WYNNE JONES'S BIOGRAPHY AND *HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE* SYNOPSIS

It contains Diana Wynne Jones's biography and the synopsis of story from novel *Howl's Moving Castle*.

CHAPTER 3 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

It consists of theoretical framework that can support the writing of the thesis. The theories deal with definition and some explanations of character, setting, and conflict. It will also explain some theories of defense mechanism.

CHAPTER 4 SOPHIE'S JOURNEY AS AN OLD LADY TO COMPLETELY CHANGE HER LIFE IN THE NOVEL *HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE*

It describes the analysis of the character, conflict, setting as its intrinsic aspects; defense mechanism of the main character and the effects of it to the main character as its extrinsic aspects.

CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION

In consists of the conclusion from the result of the analysis.

CHAPTER 2

BIOGRAPHY OF DIANA WYNNE JONES AND SYNOPSIS OF *HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE*

2.1 Biography of Diana Wynne Jones

According to Diana's Wynne Jones official autobiography website (<http://www.leemac.freemove.co.uk/autobiog.htm>), Diana Wayne Jones is an English writer. She grew up in a patriarch family. Her mother used to be a famous person when she was young but Diana saw no sign of any of this in her mother. Diana was born as the eldest of three daughters. Diana and her little sister, Isobel, were left by her father in Wales when London had war in late August 1939. She was five years old at that time.

Her father immediately went back to London to accompany her mother who was going to deliver a baby. Diana had a bad relationship with her mother because of Diana's aunt, Muriel. Muriel told Isobel and Diana to call Muriel "mummy". Diana refused, but Isobel obligingly did it. When the mother arrived with Diana's new sister, Ursula, she was angry to find Isobel calling Aunt Muriel "Mummy". Diana was trying to calm her mother down, but Diana's Welsh accent made it worse.

Diana was sent to the local school and she was the only one who could read. She spoke English almost all the time and everyone around her spoke English to her. When Diana and her sisters grew up, Isobel told her that Diana was ugly compared to Isobel and Ursula. The beautiful Ursula was going to be an actress. Isobel also said that even though Diana was ugly and semi-delinquent, she was bright and clever. The mother declared that Isobel should be a ballerina when Isobel was still young. Diana was supposed to take care of her two sisters. She did her best, but when she was around nine and ten she was not very good at it. When Diana and her sisters were no longer a child, they did their best to live in the middle of war.

Diana became a writer and decided to write *Howl's Moving Castle* when she met a boy who asked her to write about moving castles. The main character of the novel, Sophie, is similar to Diana. They were born as the eldest of the three, clever, but not as pretty as their sisters. They both were in charge of their sisters when they were young. The similarities can be found by reading the novel and the autobiography.

2.2 Synopsis of *Howl's Moving Castle*

Howl's Moving Castle was a novel about Sophie, a girl who worked as a hat maker in her late father's shop in the prosperous town of Market Chipping. Since her birthmother's death, she lived with her father, Lettie, Fanny and Martha. Fanny was her stepmother. Lettie was Sophie's younger sister from the same mother. Martha was the youngest sister of Fanny and her father. Although Martha came from the different mother, Sophie's love to Martha and Lettie was equal. Compared to Sophie's sisters, Sophie's appearance was not as beautiful as her sisters. It was not the reason why Sophie was depressed. Sophie knew that she was born as the oldest of the three. It made her less fortunate than her sisters. Although the fact that her future would not as good as her sisters, Sophie still loved her sisters and looked after them happily.

Sophie thought that her life was not interesting. She felt that bad things always happened to her. At first, Sophie never complained to what Fanny did to her. It is because Sophie always thought that Fanny was a good person. Actually, Fanny kept Sophie in the hat shop in order to make Sophie busy with the hat-making without payment. She was not recognizing it at first. However, after Martha told Sophie that Fanny employed Sophie without wage, Sophie believed that this was not the way she would end her life. Then one day, the Witch of the Waste who was known as an evil person came to the shop. The Witch of the Waste put a curse on Sophie. Sophie's appearance changed from a young lady into an old woman. After she realized that she changed into an old woman, she convinced herself to leave the house and looked for Howl. Howl was the heartless wizard who was the big enemy of the Witch of the Waste.

As the first step of Sophie's journey, she went to the place where Howl's moving castle's settled for a while. Sophie heard that the castle was staying on the hills above

Market Chipping. On the way to find Howl, Sophie found a scarecrow that stuck in a bush. Sophie thought that it might be a good walking stick for her. Unfortunately, the stick could not be used. After that Sophie released a wild dog from a trap. Eventhough she was afraid of dogs, she tried to save it. Then she got a walking stick from saving the dog. The walking stick later will accompany Sophie in her way to the Howl's Castle. She felt lonely, that was why she chose to talk to the walking stick like the way she talked to the hats. Finally, she found the castle and she got into it. She met a young man called Michael –he told himself as howl's apprentice- and a fire demon called Calcifer. Sophie made a bargain with the fire demon so that the demon broke the spell from Sophie and Sophie broke the contract between Calcifer and Howl. Sophie stayed at the castle as a cleaning lady (she hired herself as one), Sophie convinced Howl to be a good cleaning lady so that Howl would let her stay in the castle.

Sophie was trying to avoid herself from the problems as much as she could. However, the problems still came at her. She defended herself from the anxiety by doing something she could do. She suppressed her uncomfortable feeling into a something pleasant feeling. Instead of worrying about the curse, Sophie did her best at the cleaning. She helped to tidy up Howl's private room. Sophie learned when she suppressed her unwanted feeling; it helped her to enjoy her life.

Sophie was trying to do anything that she could. When she found something interesting to do, she began to like it. She opened a flower shop in the castle with Howl's help. She put a lot of efforts to maintain the flower shop so the people in town would love to come to the shop. Then one day a bad thing happened to her. The flower that she planted was rotten. She put blame on herself. She thought that her fate as being an eldest

brought her failures. It was her bad habit that was never changed. Until she learned that it was useless to put blame on something when she failed.

Sophie had been denying the unpleasant feelings that she felt. Her biggest denial was when she knew her feeling toward Howl but she did not want to admit it. As the times flew, she learned many things about Howl. Sophie did not know that in days she lived with Howl, Michael, and Calcifer, her feelings for Howl got bigger. Eventually, she learned that Howl was getting serious with one girl that Sophie got jealous to. It made her felt uncomfortable. She was trying to ignore it but she could not. Until she gave up and admitted that she had a feeling for Howl. She just made a reason not to loved Howl.

Sophie was struggling to find an interesting future for her. Eventhough her fate as being an eldest daughter always haunted her, she was trying to defend herself from the feeling that she never wanted. She found that defending and protecting herself would help her to pass through her journey. She did her best to break herself from the curse of being an eldest and being an old woman. In the end, all of her efforts gave her the things that she never thought it would happen to her.

CHAPTER 3

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The purpose of this chapter is to give a brief explanation about theories which are used to analyze the main character, Sophie, in the novel. The study analyzes Diana

Wynne Jones's *Howl's Moving Castle*, and the theme of the analysis is "Sophie's Defense Mechanism in Her Struggle to Break the Curse in Diana Wynne Jones' *Howl's Moving Castle*". In this chapter, there are two elements which are discussed; those are intrinsic element and extrinsic element. The intrinsic element consists of characters and conflicts that appear in the novel. According to Semi, intrinsic element is an element that builds a literary work from the inside of the work, such as plot, character, setting, point of view of the story, the style of the language, and conflict (1990: 67). The second element discussed is extrinsic element. This element focuses on self defense mechanism. The self defense mechanism relates to how Sophie solves her problems. The writer finds that self defense mechanism is the most suitable method to analyze Sophie, because Sophie always tries to eliminate her undesired feelings. In the analysis of the extrinsic element, the reason why the main character, Sophie, uses some defense mechanisms when she solves her problems will be discussed.

3.1 INTRINSIC ELEMENTS

There are some aspects in the intrinsic elements which are being analyzed; those are characters and conflicts.

3.1.1 Character

A character is one of the intrinsic elements that have an important role in the novel. Without the existence of the character in the novel, there will not be a literary work, because the character is the figure of the novel. Potter defines character as "any person who figures in a literary work, not particularly a peculiar or eccentric one" (1967:

1). It can be concluded that character is a person who makes an appearance in literary works.

Characters can be classified into two types; they are major character and minor character. Foore and Perkins states that major and minor characters are based on their role towards the storyline of a literary work (1987: 47). The division depends on the characters' dominant presence in a literary work. The division about role of characters is explained further by Kennedy. "A major character is human personalities that become familiar while a minor character is as a mere passive spectator or even as a character that arrives late upon the scene and then tries to piece together what happened" (1979: 18). Both major and minor characters are important in a literary work.

Another classification of character is dynamic and static characters. According to Perrine, the dynamic character always undergoes a permanent change in some aspects of character, personality, mindset, or even outlook. Meanwhile, the static character has the similar behavior, personality, mindset, or characteristic at the end of story as at the beginning (1988: 69). Static character has never changed since the beginning of the story while dynamic character has a progress in the story.

3.1.2 Conflicts

Characters in the novel will interact to one another. Those interactions may create an opposition or disagreement that leads into a conflict. According to Perrine, conflict has a definition as the disagreement in desire, idea, or purpose in a plot of a story or drama (1988: 1408). Potter adds about conflict that conflict is the result of an opposition between at least two sides (1967: 25). It can be concluded that conflict is a disagreement in idea that happens between at least two sides.

The conflict can be divided into two types; internal conflicts and external conflicts. Kennedy explanation about internal and external conflicts, that is:

Conflict can be divided into two categories: external and internal conflict. An external conflict may be physical (character against nature, or social characters against each other or against society). An internal conflict is a struggle of opposing forces within a character. The best stories contain elements of both types of conflict, but the emphasis is usually on internal conflict (2005: 90).

From the quotation above, it is clear that external conflict is a conflict that happens from the outside, while the internal conflict means a conflict that happens inside of the character. Perrine adds about conflict; conflict appears between the main character and other persons, between the main character and society, or between the main character and his own mind (1988: 1408). The conflict always happens because of the disagreement between at least two figures or characters. Therefore, it can be concluded that conflict is always coming from the internal or external factors. The external conflict appears in between one character with another character, while the internal conflict appears in between the main character and his own mind.

3.1 EXTRINSIC ELEMENT: SELF DEFENSE MECHANISM

Sophie has a habit to run away from her problems instead of facing it. The curse on Sophie makes her hardly puts any effort to change what happens in her life. While the problems appear, Sophie does her best to avoid it. In order to analyze Sophie's way to solve and helps her to overcome her problems, the psychoanalysis of defense mechanism is the best theory to reveal Sophie's acts when she is facing problems that happen in her life.

3.2.1 Defense Mechanism

People have their own way to face and solve the problems they are facing. The problems make the anxiety occurs, when it happen the mind responds by increasing the amount of problem-solving. The people who confront the problems seek rational ways to escape the situation. None all of them solve the problems. Some people tend to avoid the problems by defense mechanism. According to Plotnik, defense mechanism has a meaning that, “Freudian processes that operate at unconscious levels and that we use self-deception or untrue explanations to protect the ego from being overwhelmed by anxiety.” (2011: 437). The defense mechanism is the thing that people do unconsciously to help them to deal with anxiety and reality. Problems cause unpleasant feelings to appear. For some people rather than feeling frustration, conflict, or feelings of unworthiness, people deceive themselves into believing nothing is wrong (Kasschau, 2003: 380). Kasschau states that Freud calls this technique as defense mechanism because they defense the *ego* from experiencing the anxiety. The *ego* has a pretty important job, which is to protect people from threatening thoughts in their unconscious. One way to protect them from the unpleasant things is through defense mechanism. In conclusion, defense mechanism has a certain specific means by which the *ego* unconsciously protects itself against such unpleasant impulses, circumstances, or feelings.

There are some kinds of defense mechanism depending on the consciousness or the unconsciousness that people does, Dennis states that some of the defense mechanism are denial, repression, projection, reaction formation, displacement, rationalization, regression, sublimation, and suppression (2007: 510-511). Only four of them which are used, they are reaction formation, suppression, rationalization, and denial. These are the

most suitable method to analyze how Sophie is using defense mechanism to face her problems.

3.2.1.1 Reaction Formation

When someone feels afraid of something, he reacts toward his fear into its opposite. This is called reaction formulation. The person who does it is keeping unacceptable feelings or behaviors out of his awareness by developing the opposite behavior or emotion. According to Kasschau, Reaction formation is “involves replacing unacceptable feeling of urge with an opposite one.” (2003: 382). A person who uses reaction formulation when he is facing fears will over acting in the opposite way to the fear. Plotnik also gives a definition about reaction formulation; “involves substituting behaviors, thoughts, or feelings that are the direct opposite of unacceptable ones” (2011: 437). It is more comfortable to someone to face his fears by replacing the fears with the thought that he is not afraid of it. He puts an act to be brave for something he actually afraid of. In conclusion, reaction formation is a way to replace or to convert the feelings, thoughts, or impulse into its opposite. With this, he overcomes his fears or his unpleasant feeling of something.

3.2.1.2 Suppression

Suppression is a condition where someone is trying not to think about an unpleasant thing in his mind, while he is doing fun things to replace the unpleasant feeling into something pleasant. It is a conscious choice not to indulge a particular thought, feeling, or action. It means that he is aware of a thought or a feeling, but he decides to suppress it. According to Ryckman, suppression is consciously pressing down the unpleasant feelings or emotions by simply not thinking about them. The unpleasant

feelings are stored in the preconscious. It can be reactivated and make it conscious by the person through an exertion of his will (2008: 42). Suppression is a useful psychological mechanism which permits the person to concentrate on his problems without being distracted by every impulse which arises, and without having to act on those impulses.

3.2.1.3 Rationalization

In rationalization someone thinks through and logically justifies his actions regardless of whether his actions are appropriate or not. He makes excuse for his actions which is maybe wrong and turns his excuses to something that society would accept. It is the cognitive distortion of the reality to make an event or impulse less threatening to the people who is facing it. Plotnik states that “rationalization involves covering up the true reasons for actions, thoughts, or feelings by making up excuses and incorrect explanation” (2011: 437). Meanwhile, Ryckman adds an explanation that rationalization is “the justification of behavior through the use of plausible, but inaccurate, excuses” (2008: 44). It can be concluded that rationalization has a definition that is justifying illogical or unreasonable ideas, actions or feelings by developing acceptable explanations that satisfy the teller (the person who make excuses) as well as the listener (the person who receive the excuses).

3.2.1.4 Denial

Someone tends to deny an unpleasant thing that makes him feel uneasy, anxious, or afraid. He is escaping unpleasant realities by ignoring its existence. According to Kasschau, denial is “refuse to accept the reality of something that makes you anxious” (2003: 381). People tend to avoid the unwanted reality by denying it. They force themselves to pretend that something bad is not happening. Kasschau gives an example;

“It is stormy and frightening nights, and the local television and radio announces are advising citizens to take cover and observe the tornado warning in effect. David does not believe that this town will get hit (he is in denial) and is severely injured after failing to heed the warning.” (2003: 381). Doing denial involves blocking external events from awareness. If some situation is just too much to handle, the person just refuses to experience it. Refuse to accept something unpleasant is a sign that someone is in denial.

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

This chapter mostly contains the analysis of the main character in *Howl's Moving Castle* novel. The main topic of this study is to reveal the reason why the main character, Sophie, acts more like she is avoiding the problems than facing and solving it. While Sophie is facing her problems, she unconsciously uses self defense mechanism as her way to solve the problems. In order to understand why and how she is choosing self defense mechanism as her problem solving, it is necessary to describe how Sophie's character and personality. That is why in this chapter discusses the intrinsic element first and then the extrinsic element.

4.1. INTRINSIC ANALYSIS

The intrinsic elements analyzed are characters and conflicts of the main character, Sophie. The characters discussed are Sophie and the other characters that give influence to Sophie. The conflicts that happen to Sophie explain the way she thinks about her problems.

4.1.1. Analysis of Character in *Howl's Moving Castle*

There are many characters that appear in the novel. Based on their existence in the novel, they can be divided into major and minor characters. The characters can also be classified as two types: they are dynamic characters and static characters. However, in this thesis, the writer chooses Sophie Hatter as female main character and Howl Jenkins as the male main character to be analyzed in this subchapter. They are two of important characters in the novel that frequently appear. In the novel *Howl's Moving Castle*, the characters of Sophie and Howl can also be recognized as dynamic characters because

their personalities develop during the story. Meanwhile the minor characters, Michael and the Witch of the Waste, are static characters because they have not fully developed in the course of the story.

One of the main characters, Sophie Hatter, appears in the beginning of the story and she is described as the eldest from three daughters of Hatter, a family who runs a lady hat shop in the wealthy town. The story keeps telling the readers about Sophie. It shows that Sophie will be the center of the story.

In the land of Ingary, where such things as seven-league boots and cloaks of invisibility really exist, it is quite misfortune to be born as the eldest of three. Everyone knows you are the one who will fail first, and worst, if the three of you set out to seek your fortunes. (Jones, 2001: 4)

From the quotation above, it is told that it is a misfortune for being the eldest. The eldest is the one who will fail first if she is looking for fortunes. In the novel, Sophie appears as a young lady who is not that beautiful to be admired by many people in the town of Market Chipping. Although in the town where Sophie lives, her sisters and she are all pretty. She was not born as a poor child, but her appearance does not look like she comes from a noble family. She usually wears a plain grey dress. “There was so much custom as April drew on towards May Day that Sophie had to put on a demure gray dress and help in the shop too” (Jones, 2001: 8). Another quotation from the novel that describes Sophie’s dress: “But when she at least put a gray shawl over her gray dress and went out into the street, Sophie did not feel excited.” (Jones, 2001: 9). From the quotation above, we can see how old-fashioned she looks like. The color of her hair is reddish straw color does not suit at all with the gray dress she wears. The color of grey makes her look pale and makes her look shabby. In other occasion, Sophie who has a chance to meet Lettie in

May Day, decides to go outside the house, and she wears the same color -gray dress with gray shawl as combination. It makes her looks more palish because of the color of the dress and the shawl. When it is compared to other young girls who wear colorful dress and hat; Sophie's outfit does not look bright. Sophie's appearance makes her always says that she looks like an old woman, because the old woman uses plain dress.

Her dynamic character can be seen from her appearance and behavior in the novel. Her appearance changes after she is being cursed by the Witch of the Waste, from a young woman into an old lady. When she looks at her face in a mirror, she can see her face changes "It was the face of a gaunt old woman, withered and brownish, surrounded by wispy white hair." (Jones, 2001: 15). Not only her appearance changes, but also her characteristic develops during the story. She changes into a talkative girl. She often says sarcastic words to Howl, "I can clean the dirt from this place even if I can't clean you from your wickedness, young man." (Jones, 2001: 27). The quotation shows that Sophie starts to give sarcasm words since then. Another explanation about Sophie's dynamic character; Sophie in her family is not a pushy person, but when she turns to be an old woman because of the spell, she is quite a pushy person to everyone near her especially to Calcifer, the fire demon; to Michael, the Howl's apprentice; and to Howl. "'Now, Calcifer,'" She said, "let's have no more nonsense. Bend down your head.'" (Jones, 2001: 26). The quotation before shows that the first time Sophie meets Calcifer, she compels him to comply with her orders such as set a fire by bending Calcifer's head down so that Sophie can use the fire to cook. Her experience changes her personality slowly but surely. At first, Sophie is just a normal, plain, and not a very good person even she is kind, but it is not good enough for her to give happiness in her life. Then, her whole life changes

after the curse. She becomes not only a kind-hearted girl, but also a strong-minded girl. She can be trusted by the people around her. She also becomes a caring, clever, diligent, and positive girl with a little bit stubbornness and sarcastic. Therefore, Sophie Hatter is one of dynamic characters in the novel *Howl's Moving Castle*.

Sophie's character changing is not apart from the influence of the people surround her, especially Howl. Howl Jenkin or people know him as Wizard Howl is another major character from the novel. He is described as a young man in his twenties with fancy clothes and blonde hair (in the first meeting with Sophie), handsome even though he is skinny, and has a good looking face.

And when a young man in a fantastical blue-and-silver costume spotted Sophie and decided to accost her as well, Sophie shrank into a shop doorway and tried to hide (Jones, 2001: 9-10).

He also likes to wear jewels such as earrings and likes to wear perfumes as stated in the following quotation.

The smell of hyacinths mixed with the smell of bacon as he shoved Sophie firmly aside.

Sophie stared at the blue jewel hanging from Howl's ear and passed him egg after egg (Jones, 2001: 27).

Howl appearance is not common to the people in Market Chipping, maybe because his fancy clothes are one of Howl's ways to attract girls' attention. His outfit looks dazzling in comparison with the other guys in the town; with the color blue-and-silver makes him easier to catch by the eyes. His actual hair color is black, but he does not like it, he prefers to dye his hair rather than let his hair black. In other occasions, Sophie, intuitively, mixes Howl's hair spell, it turns Howl's hair into ginger and it makes him angry and depressed. In the novel, Howl's existence brings luck to Sophie. He is trying to

break Sophie's curse and gives her a lot of works to do. By giving her works, Sophie can focus on the things she can do rather than letting her thinks about the curse. Nonetheless, Howl also gives problems to Sophie. It causes her to deny the things that she does not want to recognize.

Howl's dynamic personality can be seen by knowing how he treats people around him. When Sophie comes to the castle for the first time and decides to live in there, she is afraid of being kicked out by Howl, but Howl never kicks her out of the castle. He simply accepts Sophie by letting her doing her job as a cleaning lady. Here is the quotation from the novel:

Howl swung his sleeve in front of her face. "Uh-uh. Don't be nosy."

"I'm not being nosy!" Sophie protested. "That room-!"

"Yes, you are nosy," said Howl. "You're a dreadfully nosy, horribly nosy, appallingly clean old woman. Control yourself. You're victimizing us all."

"But it is a pigsty," said Sophie. "I can't help what I am!"

"Yes you can," said Howl. "And I like my room the way it is. You must admit I have a right to live in a pigsty if I want. Now go downstairs and think of something else to do." (Jones, 2001: 34).

From the quotation above it is shown that he is actually a kind person. Despite his pretending of being ignorance, he is actually caring but putting an act by being a dishonest person. Although Howl always gets angry at Sophie when Sophie will not listen to him or trouble him in many ways, he never says anything about chasing her away. His kindness is hard to be seen when Sophie first gets to know Howl. He acts like he does not care about anything, but in fact he is actually cares. Howl character is slowly changing from a wicked-heartless person and a coward into someone who is kind and attentive. Therefore, it can be concluded that Howl is a dynamic character.

Besides the major characters, there are minor characters that are usually static characters. This kind of characters usually has a less portion of existence or lines in a novel than a major character. Michael Fisher is an example of a minor character which is described in the novel. He is a black teenager boy who becomes Howl's apprentice. He comes to live with Howl when his parents passed away and Howl lets him living in the castle. As for the payback from Michael, he becomes an apprentice and helps Howl in anything he can do, such as taking care of the customers and the money.

“He didn't tell me that I could stay. But he just didn't tell me to go. So I started being useful wherever I could, like looking after money so that he didn't spend it all as soon as he'd got it, and so on.” (Jones, 2001: 57-58).

From the quotation above, Michael can be described as a good person. His kindness does not only help Howl in everything he can do in the castle, but also he helps Sophie to understand Howl better. Michael is static character because his good personality does not change from the beginning of the story until the story in the novel is ended. It can be seen in the quotation: ““What do you want? Can I help you instead? I'm Howl's apprentice, Michael.”” (Jones, 2001: 20). When the first time Michael meets Sophie, Michael does not drive Sophie away from the castle. Michael politely asks Sophie if she wants something in the castle. He also introduces himself to Sophie. Michael's kindness does not change in the end of the story.

Michael always helps Sophie whenever Sophie is in trouble. Sophie is struggling to understand Howl's personality –in order to break the curse, Sophie decides to know more about Howl. The problems that appear between Howl and Sophie make her uncomfortable. Sophie denies her feeling toward Howl, because she thinks Howl like someone else. She wants to know if Howl is in love with Lettie or not. Michael decides to

help Sophie to meet Lettie by using magic boots. As can be seen in the following quotation:

“But if Howl sees you there he’ll be furious,” Michael went on, working things out. “Because I promised him, he’ll be mad with both of us. You ought to rest.” Then, when Sophie was almost ready to hit him, he exclaimed, “Wait! There’s a pair of seven-league boots in the broom cupboard!” (Jones, 2001: 52)

Michael does not want the relationship between Sophie and Howl gets worse. Despite of his promise to Howl, Michael worries about Sophie who walks alone only to meet her sister. Michael does not want to see Sophie suffer.

Another minor character in this novel is the Witch of the Waste, which is also a static character. The Witch of the Waste is the witch who cursed Sophie into an old lady because she mistaken her for her sister, Lettie. She appears to be a beautiful woman with chestnut brown hair but The Witch of the Waste is wicked. She is even worse than Howl. She does not hesitate to eliminate everything that gets on her way to achieve what she wants. It states on page 14 in the novel: ““I always bother when someone tries to set themselves up against the Witch of the Waste,” said the lady. “I’ve heard of you, Miss Hatter, and I don’t care for your competition or your attitude. I came up to put a stop to you.”” (Jones, 2001: 14). Her wickedness does not change throughout the story of the novel. In the end of the story, the Witch of the Waste is still trying to take Howl’s heart so that she can live longer, as can be seen in the following quotation: ““I’m afraid not,” Howl said. “You’ve had your time. By the look of this, you were trying to get a new heart too. You were going to take my heart and let Calcifer die, weren’t you?”” (Jones, 2001: 138). From the explanation before, it shows that she is a static character because she only appears as the bad guy in the novel.

4.1.2. Analysis of Conflict in *Howl's Moving Castle*

There are some conflicts which happen in a novel; either it is a conflict between one character with another or between the ideas of the characters themselves. These conflicts make the story interesting to be read. For the novel *Howl's Moving Castle*, there are two types of conflicts, internal conflict and external conflict.

The internal conflict in Sophie happens when she realizes that born as an eldest daughter brings less fortune in her life. She soon realizes what society tells her about it. Eventhough she tries to suppress her disappointment, she cannot forget about that matter. Being an eldest makes her unconfident to do anything. She is scared of failure that will come at her. She wants to be a successful person in the future, but the idea of being an eldest stops her from making her dream comes true. It can be seen in the quotation, “”What made me think I wanted life to be interesting?” she asked as she ran. “I’d be too scared. It comes of being the eldest of the three.”” (Jones, 2001: 9). Sophie talks to herself. She is arguing between to do what she wants and to accept what the people say about being an eldest. This is the beginning of all the problems that happen on Sophie. She does not know how to deal with her fate as an eldest. She chooses to accept the reality without trying to get what she really wants.

The people around Sophie force her to believe that being an eldest will brings misfortune to her. Fanny takes a big role in this situation. She knows that Sophie believe in the failure of the eldest. Fanny takes an advantage from it by slaving Sophie away for her. She employs Sophie without wage. This is the external conflict that happens in Sophie. The external factors come from the society and Fanny. The society makes her

doubt whether to achieve the interesting future she wants or to let the situation stay the same. Fanny is making the situation worse, as can be seen in the following quotation:

“Now, Sophie dear, it seems only right and just that you should inherit the hat shop when I retire, being the eldest as you are. So I’ve decided to take you on as an apprentice myself, to give you chance to learn the trade. How do you feel about that?” (Jones, 2001: 6)

Fanny knows that Sophie will not refuse to work for her. Although Sophie has a feeling to resign from the hat trade, she cannot do much about it. She suppresses her feeling, even though it makes her uncomfortable. She decides to stay in the hat shop. Fanny’s decision to force Sophie to work in the hat shop makes Sophie feel that her condition cannot be changed. Being an eldest will bring her failure. After that, Sophie always puts blame on being an eldest when she fails at something.

4.2 EXTRINSIC ANALYSIS: SELF DEFENSE MECHANISM

This subchapter contains the explanation about three things. First, it is the explanation about Sophie’s behavior in facing her problems. Second, it is how Sophie Hatter uses self defense mechanism as her method to solve her problems. Third, it is how the using of self defense mechanism helps her to break the curse.

4.2.1 Analysis of Sophie’s Behavior in Facing Her Problems

As it has been discussed before in the intrinsic elements, Sophie has a strong belief in her fate as being an eldest of the three. The doctrine about being the eldest is like a curse in young Sophie. This gives a big impact in how Sophie’s act to face every problem that occurs in her life. When the moment she realizes that her life will not be as

interesting as her other sisters, “She read a great deal, and very soon realized how little chance she had of an interesting future.” (Jones, 2001: 4). She tries to accept it like it is going to be her way of life till the end. She is aware that she wants an interesting future, but she never tries to get it with her own hands. She rather works in the shop than steps outside the house to seek her fortune. She is still young to experience many things in her life, yet she feels like an old woman who cannot do many things like the youngster. Her life is dull, because of her appearance which is not very beautiful like her sisters make her feels unconfident. Still she does not want to try to change her look to make her more attractive, at least to please herself.

The doctrine never fails to haunt Sophie’s thought whenever she is thinking to seek her fortune or whenever she is failing. When her father passed away for example, Fanny assigns her in the hat shop to work there; Fanny also uses the reason for being an eldest to Sophie so that Sophie will accept it without arguing. It is stated in the page six in the novel, ““Now, Sophie dear, it seems only right and just that you should inherit the hat shop when I retire, being the eldest as you are.”” (Jones, 2001). Sophie already had strong belief in her destiny as an eldest and Fanny makes it worse. As a mother she does not support Sophie to try to seek her fortune, she keeps Sophie for herself and Sophie cannot refuse nor oppose it. Another occasion when Sophie thinks she wants her life to be interesting, she then thinks about being the eldest and stop herself from trying to achieve it, ““What made me think I wanted life to be interesting?” she asked as she ran. “I’d be far too scared. It comes of being the eldest of three.”” (Jones, 2001: 9). She accepts everything that happens in her life even when it seems not right to her, with an excuse of being an eldest will gives her nothing except tedious life. She needs one thing to push her

to change. She begins to change when the Witch of the Waste comes to her shop and curses her. Apparently she cannot stay in the house because people will get worried about her and ask her why all of this happens, so she decides to move out from the house. She will find Howl and will find out how to break the curse. One big step in her life and it leads her to the new and interesting life for her.

Sophie has a habit to make an excuse or to blame her fates when she has to do something or she will not do anything. After getting cursed, her appearance changes and her character slowly changes as well. In her journey, she starts to think about herself and cares for herself. She pushes herself to be a person who has no excuses for not doing anything. When she encourages herself to come to Howl's castle, she knows Howl as a bad person, yet she still comes because at that time she needs a shelter to rest for the night, as it can be seen in the following quotation: "She was not particularly frightened. She wondered how it moved. But the main thing in her mind was that all that smoke must mean a large fireside somewhere inside those tall black walls" (Jones, 2001: 18). Before Sophie was cursed to be an old lady, she would definitely avoid the thing that is connected to Howl, but it is different now. She has no excuse left to not do anything, yet she still blames on her cursed when something happens.

Her character in other sides slowly changes. For example, Sophie in the beginning of the story is not a pushy person, but when she turns to be an old woman because of the spell, she is quite pushy to everyone near her especially to Calcifer, the fire demon; to Michael, the Howl's apprentice; and to Howl. As can be seen in the following quotation, "'Now, Calcifer,' She said, 'let's have no more nonsense. Bend down your head.'" (Jones, 2001: 26) the quotation is for example, the first time she meets Calcifer, she

compels him to comply with her orders such as set a fire by bending Calcifer's head down so that Sophie can use the fire to cook. She also changes in the way she speaks so boldly, especially to Howl. She never fails to criticize Howl's personality, ""You're a slitherer-outer, that's what you are! You slither away from anything you don't like!"" says Sophie to Howl in the novel page 34. Sophie is not afraid to speak boldly like that because she knows that nothing can hold her ever again from anything. Being an old woman makes her point of view of seeing everything has changed and it changes her attitudes towards the problem she is facing.

Sophie's personality changes in the end. She becomes not only a kind-hearted girl, but also a strong-minded, pushy but still nice, and positive girl with a little bit stubbornness and sarcasm. She faces her problems bravely and her world changes completely. Even though some of her personality already changes, her mindset of being an eldest still haunts her mind and she still blames it. When she finally does something about herself but it fails, she puts blame on being the eldest. There's no point on trying so hard to get an interesting future, it will fail or ended bad anyway. ""I'm the eldest!" Sophie shrieked. "I'm a failure!" (Jones, 2001: 136) From the quotation it can be seen that until the very end of the story, Sophie still makes the fate of being the eldest as her excuses for her failures. She thinks that even after she comes this far, she fails in the end.

4.2.2 Analysis of Sophie's Self Defense Mechanism

There are some defense mechanisms that Sophie used, and all of them will be discussed here, they are reaction formation, suppression, rationalization, and denial.

4.2.2.1 Analysis of Reaction Formation

Having problems or dealing with conflicts brings unpleasant things to anyone who faces it. Reaction formation appears when someone who has problems tries to deal with it by putting on an act which is opposite to the things that is related to the problems.

In the novel, Sophie believes in a doctrine that being born as an eldest will bring less fortune to her future. It is budging her a lot. Sophie realizes that her future will not as interesting as her sisters, she is trying to hide her disappointment by taking care of her sisters.

Mr. Hatter was proud of his three daughters and sent them all to the best school in town. Sophie was the most studious. She read a great deal, and very soon realized how little chance she had of an interesting future. It was disappointment to her, but she was still happy enough, looking after her sisters and grooming Martha to seek her fortune when the time came

(Jones, 2001:4).

It is clear that Sophie is actually sad knowing that she has to give up dreaming about having an interesting future, but instead of getting angry or trying so hard to change her future so that she can have a bright and an interesting life, she chooses to stay at home to take care of her sisters and to watch her sisters reaching their dreams. Rather than trying to deal with the problems she has, she gives up on her dreams instead.

When her father dies, Fanny chooses to send Lettie and Martha away to be apprentices. Sophie wants to go to seek for her fortunes too, just like the others, but when Fanny tells her to stay; she does not refuse it as shown in the following quotation.

As for Sophie herself, Sophie had no doubt what was coming. It did not surprise her when Fanny said, "Now, Sophie dear, it seems only right and just that you should inherit the hat shop when I retire, being the eldest as you are. So I've decided to take you on as an apprentice myself, to give you a chance to learn the trade. How do you feel about that?"

Sophie could hardly say that she simply felt resigned to the hat trade. She thanked Fanny gratefully (Jones, 2001: 6).

It shows that Sophie will not inherit the hat shop and because it shows that Sophie is a diligent and a smart girl. She wants to have an interesting future. She wants to go outside the house like the other two, but then again the thought of being an eldest means less fortunate. Rather than arguing, she thanks Fanny instead and keeps staying at the hat shop. This reaction is an opposite from the way Sophie feels about going out.

Another reaction formation that Sophie uses is when the Witch of the Waste curses her; it changes her into an old lady. Sophie feels something strange happens to her, when she finally realizes that she becomes an old woman she does not freak out.

Sophie got herself to the mirror, and found she had to hobble. The face in the mirror was quite calm, because it was what she expected to see. It was the face of a gaunt old woman, withered and brownish, surrounded by wispy white hair. Her own eyes, yellow and watery, stared out at her, looking rather tragic.

“Don’t worry, old things,” Sophie said to the face. “You look quite healthy. Besides, this is much more like you really are.”

She thought about her situation, quite calmly. Everything seemed to have gone calm and remote. She was not even particularly angry with the Witch of the Waste (Jones, 2001: 15).

Based on the quotation, after Sophie finds out about her changing, she feels grateful instead of getting angry. She is quite rather calm than she expects. Even though she is an old woman, she feels healthy and the dress she is wearing at that time suits her. Somehow, she acts differently from what she expects. She does not get mad, angry, and try to curse the Witch of the Waste back. It shows that Sophie is in reaction formation state when she is cursed.

Sophie is scared of the dog, either when she was still young or when she is adult. It is stated in the page sixteen of the novel when Sophie tries to release the dog from the hedge, “As a girl, Sophie was scared of all dogs. Even as an old woman, she was quite alarmed by the two rows of white fangs in the creature’s open jaws. “But she said to herself, “The way I am now, it’s scarcely worth worrying about,”” (Jones, 2001: 16) It is shows that she feeling scared to help to release the dog from its stuck to the hedge, but she acts like she is brave enough, no need to be afraid because her appearance is quite worrying and can scares people off to see. She changes her fear into its opposite. She wants to convince herself that she is not afraid of the dog by helping it. Her reaction formulation helps her to overcome her fear of the dog.

Another thing Sophie scared off is Wizard Howl. She hears so much about the Wizard from the customers in the hat shop. She knows how wicked and bad the Wizard is, but when she has to comes to the Wizard’s castle, she puts one thing to her mind so that her fear is gone, as can be seen in the following quotation

“Well, why not?” she said to her stick. “Wizard Howl is not likely to want my soul for his collection. He only takes young girls. She raised her stick and waved it imperiously at the castle (Jones, 2001: 18).

From the quotation above it is clear that Sophie wants to omit her fear by changing the way of thinking. She just simply says that it is alright to come to the castle since she is not young and pretty so Howl will not interested in her so that Sophie will not get heart eaten by the Wizard. This is happened when she wants to overcome her fear of Wizard Howl. She knows that if she still afraid of Howl, it will get her nowhere. Therefore, she changes her fear into courageous.

Sophie's reaction formation shows from how she gives up on her dream instead of fights for it to be true. She wants to go outside the house and enjoys her adventure, but she chooses to stay at the hat shop. She also feels grateful instead of angry when she gets cursed by the Witch of the Waste. Another thing that makes Sophie uneasy is her fear of dog and Wizard Howl; she puts an act like she is not afraid of them. Sophie's act toward her fear is changing because she needs to overcome the fear or simply to get rid the unpleasant feeling.

4.2.2.2 Analysis of Suppression

Suppression appears when someone feels uneasy about something and he tries to get rid of it by hiding and controlling unacceptable thoughts or feelings. The same things happen to Sophie, when she feels something unpleasant, she tries to hide it and thinks about something else.

Sophie has her own ways to feeling enjoys the things that she actually does not enjoy. She simply does not want to think that the condition and the problems she is facing are unpleasant to her, and she finds her way to not think about that a lot.

When Sophie works at Fanny's hat shop, Sophie feels lonely because there are no one else much to talk to. This feeling causes her down, feeling sad, and she does not want it. It can disturb her works so that she decides to talk to the hats.

“Sophie talks to hats more and more as weeks went by. There was no one else much to talk to. Fanny was out bargaining, or trying to whip up custom, much of the day, and Bessie was busy serving and telling everyone her wedding plans” (Jones, 2001: 7).

This quotation shows that Sophie is trying to suppress her unwanted feeling into something pleasant and joy even just for a little. It is better to talk to the hats rather than feeling lonely because she has no one to talk about many things, especially she is a young woman who is like to talk about many things that happen. Sophie's method by talking to the hats makes her loneliness lessens. It solves one of her problems. When she talks to the hats, she does not have to think about her loneliness anymore.

This is nothing much different when Sophie walks with her walking stick and starts to talk to it, just like what she did when she still working at the hat shop. It can be seen in the quotation below.

_____. Sophie pulled the stick that had trapped the dog out of the hedge and found it was a proper walking stick, well trimmed and tipped with iron. Sophie finished her bread and cheese and set off walking again. The lane became steeper and steeper and she found the stick a great help. It was also something to talk to. Sophie thumped along with a will, chatting to her stick. After all, old people often talk to themselves. (Jones, 2001:16)

It is quite helpful to her to talk to dead things, because she has nobody to talk to and to share the events that happen to her. She thinks that talking to the stick will lessen her loneliness. Before she was cursed, she found it hard to look for somebody to talk to. It does not change right after she is cursed. Especially, when she is wandering around in the hill where Moving Castle is near. Because of her habits talk to the hats, it is natural for Sophie to talk to the walking stick as her way to eliminate the loneliness.

Sophie is trying hard not to think about something unpleasant. It makes her uncomfortable so that she suppresses her feelings and thinks about something pleasant to her. The thing about talking to the hats and to the walking stick helps her release the uneasiness in her mind. She will forget about her loneliness because she has nobody to

talk to. This is the suppression that Sophie unconsciously does to get rid her unpleasant feelings.

4.2.2.3 Analysis of Rationalization

When Sophie thinks about something which is actually wrong, she decides to make an excuse for it, so that she cannot feel the anxiety. Rationalization is a defense mechanism that involves explaining an unacceptable behavior or feeling in a rational or logical manner, avoiding the true reasons for the behavior.

Sophie feels something that is seems not right for her, and then she tries to cover it up by making an excuse. This is what Sophie exactly does when she finally realizes that Fanny uses her.

“Maybe I’m being exploited.” She told a hat she was trimming with red silk and a bunch of wax cherries, “but someone has to do this or there will be no hats at all to sell.” She finished that hat and started on a stark black-and-white one, very modish, and quite new thought came to her (Jones, 2001: 13).

She is trying not to think about she is being exploited because it makes her feel sad. She fortifies herself from the feel of anxiety by makes an excuse that she work at Fanny as a hat maker because no one can do it like the way she did. Sophie knows herself is good at trimming the hats, so she uses it as an excuse for herself for not leaving the hat shop right away. Also she is aware, if she moves out from the house it means she has to work hard to find what she really wants and the thought of being an eldest will give her bad luck. Therefore, she finds a way to not moving out from the house as an excuse even though it means she must be work under Fanny.

Another rationalization that Sophie does is when she tries to do something or wants something; she makes an excuse and tends to blame on being an eldest. It can be seen in the quotations below.

“Now, Sophie dear, it seems only right and just that you should inherit the hat shop when I retire, being the eldest as you are.”

Sophie could hardly say that she simple felt resigned to the hat trade. She thanked Fanny gratefully (Jones, 2001: 6).

At this stated, Sophie wants to go to seek her fortune just like her sisters, but rather than tells Fanny about it she makes an excuse for herself to not leaving, so that she does not have to try her hardest to make her live better. Other quotation that tell the same excuse which Sophie uses:

She set off up the lane again, but a thought struck her and she turned back. “Now if I wasn’t doomed to failure because of my position in the family,” she told the scarecrow, “you could come to life and offer me help in making my fortune. But I wish you luck anyway.” (Jones, 2001: 16).

She is using the same excuse, being an eldest is the same thing as brings less fortunate, to not doing something that actually she wants to. She uses this too when she messes up at doing something she finally finds interesting to do, as seen at the following quotations:

“It may be the curse hovering to catch up with Howl,” she sighed to the flowers, “but I think it’s being the eldest, really. Look at me! I set out to seek my fortune and I end up exactly where I started, and old as the hills still!” (Jones, 2001: 112).

She was going to match seven leagues on her own feet and not come back. Show everyone! Who cared that poor Mrs. Pentstemmon had relied on Sophie how to stop Howl from going to the bad! Sophie was a failure anyway. It came of being the eldest (Jones, 2001: 119).

At the quotation of page 112, she just starts business on selling flowers; she is kind of like doing it. Every day she picks up the flower and puts it in baskets in the shop to sell. Until one day she discovers that she can plant it by herself, so she does. She plant roots

and takes care of it, but the roots turn out to be one of the curses that following Howl. She blames on being the eldest; she does not want to admit that she fails on doing something she likes. Almost the same thing happens after Sophie finds out her daffodils that she planted has gone horribly wrong; it's all becomes weed-killer. Her anger is getting bigger since she knows that Howl already knows that Sophie is in spell, and Lettie knows about it too and worries about her. She blames on the doctrine of being eldest mean failure (refers to quotation of page 119). After all of what she has done, she feels miserable, all of those things are failure and she thinks it cannot be helped since she is the eldest of the three.

The last excuse that Sophie says to defend herself from admitting something is when finally she realizes that the scarecrow which is always scares her or Michael or Calcifer in the castle in truth is not frightening at all, as can be seen in the following quotation.

Certainly the scarecrow was just standing there. It was not trying to barge inside as it had before. And Calcifer must have trusted it. He had stopped the castle moving. Sophie looked at the turnip face and the fluttering rags. It was not so frightening after all. She had once had fellow feeling for it. She rather suspected that she had made it into a convenient excuse for not leaving the castle because she had really wanted to stay (Jones, 2001: 129).

From the quotation above, it shows that Sophie makes the scarecrow as an excuse whenever she wants to leave the castle. By saying that the scarecrow scares her as an excuse, it eases her and the people inside the castle will accept it. The people inside the castle know how frightening the scarecrow is and helps Sophie to get rid of it. Sophie gets the advantages from it. She does not have to go out the castle even though in reality

they do not tell Sophie to leave. It is just hard for Sophie to admit that she really wants to stay in the castle.

Rationalization not only prevents anxiety, it may also protect self-esteem and self-concept. When confronted by success or failure, people tend to attribute achievement to their own qualities and skills while failures are blamed on other people or outside forces. That's why Sophie chooses to make an acceptable reason in each event that occurs in her life, such as defends Fanny by saying that Fanny needs her so it is natural for Sophie to stay at the hat shop. Sophie also puts the blame on being the eldest for almost of all her failures. All of these are to help Sophie to protect her self-esteem and to prevent her anxiousness.

4.2.2.4 Analysis of Denial

Some people who have problems or feeling uneasy about something, they tend to simply deny the things that happen to them. This is what people called denial. Sophie often uses denial when she seems unable to face reality or admit an obvious truth.

Denial is happened when Sophie meets Martha in her work place, Martha tells Sophie how unfair and how evil Fanny who's trying to get rid of her daughter and uses Sophie as her will to works without even paying. Hear the reality makes her feel unpleasant, she is thinking about that and she is trying to deny all of it. "“I'm all right,” Sophie protested. “Just a bit dull.”” (Jones, 2001: 12) And with that she keeps trying to deny all of things that Martha says to her.

“Nothing,” Sophie said uncomfortably. “We've been rather busy. You shouldn't talk about Fanny that way, Martha, She is your mother.”

“I’m still an apprentice,” Sophie protested.

“She’s out doing the buying,” Sophie said

“Well, Fanny’s entitled to some pleasure after all her hard work bringing us up,” Sophie said. “I suppose I’ll inherit the shop.”” (Jones, 2001: 12).

It is clearly enough to tell that Sophie keeps trying to deny from what happens to her. She does not want to think that Fanny is a bad person, because when she admits that Fanny exploit her, it means that she is stupid enough to be fooled so that she can be exploited that way. And it will make her more depressed and sad, and feeling unworthy. Being an eldest and have less fortunate is depressing enough for her, she does not to make it worse. She does not want to think that the things did not work as she thinks.

Sophie knows exactly how her condition is when she still working in the hat shop. Her life is not interesting at all; her appearance is not appealing anyone. As can be seen in the quotation below:

That night, as she sewed, Sophie admitted to herself that her life was rather dull. Instead of talking to the hats, she tried each one on as she finished it and looked in the mirror. This was mistake. The staid gray dress did not suit Sophie, particularly when her eyes were red-rimmed with sewing, and, since her hair was a reddish straw color, neither did caterpillar-green nor pink. The one with the mushroom pleats simply made her look dreary. ‘Like an old maid!’ said Sophie (Jones, 2001: 8).

It shows that Sophie’s life is dull, and she wants to do something about it, like talks to her sister, but she does not go. Instead of going, she just accepting the reality as it is okay for her to live like that, as dull as ever. She is in denial about the reality; she tends to act like nothing is wrong, so she does not have to do anything to changes it or at least makes it better. She denies it since she does not want to acknowledge the reality, because knowing and admitting that her life is dull put pressures and unpleasant feelings for her.

Another denial is when deep inside Sophie's heart she knows that she has a feeling for Howl, although she blames the suit with a spell to attract women. She just simply denies it by saying she does not want to admit that she gets caught by the spell.

“Oh, confound that gray-and-scarlet suit!” Sophie said. “I refuse to believe that I was the one that got caught with it!” The trouble was the blue-and-silver suit seemed to have worked just the same. She stumped a few steps further. (Jones, 2001:119)

From the quotation above it is clear that Sophie does not want to admit that she knows she likes Howl. She refuses the reality about her feeling for him, because it is something unpleasant to her. She is old and not pretty, whereas Howl likes pretty young girls. Sophie thinks it is impossible for Howl to love Sophie back and it makes her down. This will not end well, since Howl falling in love for sure with Miss Angorian there is no way Howl will love Sophie.

Sophie's feeling for Howl is not recognizable or more precisely is that Sophie denies it. Whenever Howl goes to the Wales, she gets angry all of sudden; she puts a thought that it is a pity for Lettie because Howl will dump Lettie because of Miss Angorian; or she gets angry, yells, and orders people around her. “I think the least Howl could do is to make the place look a bit more lived in. But no! He's far too busy gadding off to Wales! Don't just stand there, Percival! Pour some of that stuff into the can and then come along behind me.” (Jones, 2001: 118) It is shows that Sophie is getting angry all of sudden, in spite acknowledge her true feeling to Howl, she denies it. She does not want to accept that she has a feeling for Howl because she thinks Howl is not interested in her.

Sophie tries to not acknowledge the feeling and the event that occurs; so that she can get rid the uncomfortable feelings. When she actually knows that Fanny just uses her, Sophie keep thinking that Fanny is a good person. Sophie does not want to recognize her feeling for Howl, because she thinks that it will be useless since Howl does not like her. Thus, she can protect her ego from the things she cannot cope with.

4.2.3 Analysis of How the Using of Self Defense Mechanism Helps Her to Break the Curse

From the beginning of the story, before she is cursed by the Witch of the Waste, she is cursed by the fate of being an eldest of three daughters. It gives big impact in her life towards how she solves her problem. She always denies her reality, running away from it, and pretends that everything is alright. By doing defense mechanism when Sophie is facing her problems helps her to survive. It is appears a lot in the beginning of the story. When she has to faces or solves the problem that appears, she has the feeling of uneasy or unpleasant, she needs to get rids of those feelings. She tends to solve the problem by denying, making excuses, acting the opposite, and just simply not thinking about it.

After the curse, her character sure is changed, but her habits on doing self defense is not totally disappears. When she is young (before the curse), she blames her fate as being an eldest as the reasons of her actions, but when she is old she blames her cursed as the reason. In other side, her excuse of being an eldest gives her many good things. She starts to pushes herself to steps out of the house –since she cannot stays at the house anymore- to find out how to break the spell. She begins her journey as an old lady. When

she sees Howl's castle she does not freak out and running away, she comes inside the castle instead. She then meets Calcifer and makes a bargain with it about breaking the spells. Her personality which is used to let everything happens without trying slowly disappears. She braves enough to employ herself as a cleaning lady in Howl's castle, speaking boldly, and doing everything she can. Her life is changing, and she finds out that it is getting interesting. While she is changing, she still doing her defense, she does it in order to keep stays in the castle; she makes a reason to not leave the castle and in the end she finally admits that she likes living in the castle with Howl, Michael, and Calcifer. As can be seen in the quotation below:

“You mustn't worry, because Wizard Howl took me in-“

“Howl has been very kind to me,” And this was true, Sophie realized. Howl showed his kindness rather strangely, but, considering all Sophie had done to annoy him, he had been very good to her indeed. (Jones, 2001:125)

From the quotation above, it can be seen that finally she admits that living in the castle is not bad; it turns out to be good things to her. Before that she is trying to deny all the feelings she has.

Her efforts to seek her fortune and makes her life interesting leads to the event where Miss Angorian is kidnapped by the Witch, she feels guilty because of her acts toward Miss Angorian before the event occurs,

“This is my fault!” she muttered. “I have a genius for doing things wrong! I could have kept Miss Angorian indoors. I only needed to talk to her politely, poor thing! Howl may have forgiven me a lot of things, but he's not going to forgive me this in a hurry!” (Jones, 2001:130)

From the quotation above it shows that she is being impolite to Miss Angorian because she is jealous. It is also shows that Sophie tries to rescue Miss Angorian from the Witch

hands without thinking about her first. The denial she does before make Sophie becomes more honest about her feeling; she finds out that it is give her nothing but trouble in the end. She shall have just admit it, and do something about it. In the end of the story, she is not using her curse of being old or her curse as being an eldest becomes the reason to not doing anything. It is useless just to thinking about it too much. It is better to put a little effort, doing a little thing she can does, and make her dreams come true. After her journey as an old lady, she finally let herself having an interesting future.

Her defense mechanism makes her survive from all the problems that happen in her life. Her habit on doing it slowly changes her character without her notice. In the end it helps her to reach what she thinks she will never get. Maybe, if she solves her problems by doing everything she can to change her fates from the very beginning, she will not stick in the hat shop and the Witch will has no opportunity to curses Sophie.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Howl's Moving Castle is a novel about an eldest daughter of the three, Sophie, who is struggling to get an interesting future. Because of the people say that being an eldest brings less fortunate than the other siblings, it is not easy for Sophie to break from the curse of being an eldest. She is rather succumbing to her condition, plus her appearance is not as attractive as her sisters.

There are differences in the ideas or characteristics that cause conflicts between Sophie Hatter and Fanny Hatter. Fanny wants to use Sophie's fate as an eldest for her own advantages. The conflict strengthens Sophie's belief. It becomes Sophie's big problem.

The defense mechanism appears when Sophie tries to eliminate the unpleasant feelings in her mind. When she consciously aware that the reality seems wrong to her: she prefers not to think about it and to hide it (Suppression); she simply denies it

(Denial); she makes an excuse so that she does not have to make an effort to change her life (Rationalization); or she puts on acts like nothing happens or acts brave instead of feeling afraid of something (Reaction Formation). Until finally she realizes that doing those kinds of things are useless, not all of the things will change if she keeps denying or running away from the problem without pushing her to do something. In the end she breaks the curse of being the eldest or the curse of being an old lady, because it does not matter how she used to be as long as she tries her best to make her life better.

Sophie's defense mechanism helps her to survive from all the problems that appear in her life. The habit of doing defense mechanisms whenever the problems occur changes her personality without her notice. Until her defense helps her to reach the things she thinks she will never get. In the end, the curse on her can finally be broken; both it is the curse of being an old woman and the curse of being an eldest of the three.

After analyzing the novel, it can be concluded that no matter how bad are people's fate or condition in their life, no matter how young or old some people is, the most important thing is doing the best they can do so that their life will change and it will get better, because there is no success without efforts. Maybe life plays them for a while or maybe life will get harder. Nevertheless they have to continue their lives regardless the worst condition that can happen, because life is something worthy to struggle on with its problems and difficulties.

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