Jin Seon’s Defense Mechanism in Carnby Kim and Youngchan Hwang’s *Bastard*

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**ABSTRACT**

The thesis writer focuses on the analysis of Jin Seon’s defense mechanism as seen in Carnby Kim and Youngchan Hwang’s *Bastard*. The topic defense mechanism is chosen because it is important to find out the proofs, the causal factors, and the effects of defense mechanism of the main character. There are three objectives intended to be achieved in this thesis, they are: to find out the proofs of Jin Seon’s defense mechanism, the causal factors of Jin Seon’s defense mechanism, and the effects of Jin Seon’s defense mechanism on himself, on Kyun Yoon, and on his father. The thesis writer applies the theory of defense mechanism, the concept of defense mechanism as seen in psychological point of view by Sigmund Freud, and conducts a descriptive qualitative research. The finding shows that there are fifteen proofs of Jin Seon’s defense mechanism and it is divided into four proofs for denial, three proofs for repression, two proofs for projection, one proof for reaction formation, three proofs for rationalization, and two proofs for sublimation. Besides, the thesis writer also concludes that there are ten causal factors of Jin Seon’s defense mechanism that are: two denial causal factors, one repression causal factor, two projection causal factor, one reaction formation causal factor, two rationalization causal factor, two sublimation causal factor. While both of them, the thesis writer also conclude that there are effects of Jin Seon’s defense mechanism on himself, on Kyun Yoon, and on his dad.

**Keywords:** Defense, Mechanism, Webtoon.
INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Literary work has functioned to entertain the readers. People used to read comics but today, people read webcomics/Webtoon to entertain them. Webtoon is an online digital comic that can be enjoyed anywhere, anytime through personal computer or even cellular phone. According to Wang Center on his interview in Webtoon: The evolution of Korean digital comics (2016) https://www.artsy.net/show/charles-b-wang-center-Webtoon-the-evolution-of-Korean-digitalcomics:
The Webtoon is digital comics run the gamut from comedies to dramas, from thrillers to romances and elaborate fantasies. It can be enjoyed anywhere, anytime, online and on mobile devices. The word Webtoon comes from web and cartoon and shortened to be Webtoon.

This new evolution of digital comics comes from South Korea, there are several genres which provide to entertain the readers, such as romance, drama, comedy, slice of life, fantasy, thriller, and horror with variant title from several authors who comes from some countries around the world. The thesis writer is interested in depending one of the titles comes from thriller genre entitled Bastard authorize and illustrated by Carnby Kim and Youngchan Hwang. Based on goodreads.com Bastard was published on July 4th 2014 and finished in 2016 by NAVER. It was published to Global Webtoon on June 8th 2015 up to March 21st 2017 with 93 Episodes liked by 3 Millions accounts and rated as 9.88 stars.

In this study, Sigmund Freud psychoanalysis of defense mechanism theory is implemented as the base main theory and Anna Freud’s statement that is developed defense mechanism idea from Sigmund Freud will be used to complete the theory for the analysis. The psychoanalysis theory will be analyzed trough associated effect of Jin Seon’s childhood trauma and his lost identity as a murderer or a victim, and the use of defense mechanism will be revealed trough the connected effect which cause the defense mechanism he use for his resolution in overcoming his problems.

Statements of the Problem

Base on the explanation in the background of the study there are three statements of the problem are conducted with the research questions below:

1. What are the proofs of Jin Seon’s defense mechanism in Carnby Kim and Youngchan Hwang’s BASTARD?
2. What are the causal factors of Jin Seon’s defense mechanism in Carnby Kim and Youngchan Hwang’s BASTARD?
3. What are the effects of Jin Seon’s defense mechanism for himself, Kyun Yoon and his father in Carnby Kim and Youngchan Hwang’s BASTARD?

Objectives of the Study

Base on the statement of the problems above the objectives of the studies are:

1. to find the proofs of Jin Seon’s defense mechanism in Carnby Kim and Youngchan Hwang’s BASTARD;
2. to find the causal factors of Jin Seon’s defense mechanism in Carnby Kim and Youngchan Hwang’s BASTARD; and
3. to find the effects of Jin Seon’s defense mechanism for himself, Kyun Yoon and his father in Carnby Kim and Youngchan Hwang’s BASTARD.

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

1. Webtoon
   a. Webtoon definition
**evolution-of-Korean-digitalcomics:**

The Webtoon is digital comics run the gamut from comedies to dramas, from thrillers to romances and elaborate fantasies. It can be enjoyed anywhere, anytime, online and on mobile devices. The word Webtoon comes from web and cartoon and shortened to be Webtoon.

Webtoon can be enjoyed anywhere, anytime, online and on mobile devices. The word Webtoon comes from *web* and *cartoon* and shortened to be *Webtoon*. Webtoon consists of some comics which is published online. Webtoon also considered as subgenre from manhwa (Korean Comics). But those are different because manhwa is published psychically as an ordinary book/magazine which sells in the offline store but Webtoon is published through internet in the hosting comic’s website.

b. LINE Webtoon
   1) LINE Webtoon History
   In the 1990’s, during the boom of launching personal WebPages, many Korean cartoonists started to show their work on their WebPages instead debuting it through magazines and instead of sticking to the dramatic genre that serial magazines preferred, many of them displayed their individual tastes, stories, and ideas and were well- received. Called “essay-toons”, “sympathy toons”, or *internet toons*, they escaped the pressure of having to fill up a page by uploading loosely-configured drawings with ample margins that simply required scrolling.

   a) NAVER
   NAVER was established in June 2, 1999 with a goal of offering Korean and other internet users the widest possible selection of online services. NAVER becomes one of online portal which support the webtoon development to the whole world. NAVER (네이버) is a search engine that is very popular in Korea and it has become the main search engine used in Korea and it is alike with Google.

   NAVER is launched in June, 1999 by ex employee of Samsung namely Lee Hae Jin. Lee Hae Jin with his employees keep developing

   NAVER by providing the most wanted fiture by Korean at that moment. To support his business, NAVER starts to cooperate with one of first game online corporation in Korea, hangame, in September, 2011. The corporation of both companies is named as NHN Corporation. NAVER keeps developing the business until it could come to Japan. Then, when NAVER creates LINE massager application becomes the main massager in Japan.

2. Defense Mechanism by Sigmund Freud
   According to Adams, in his book entitled *Psychology of Adjustment*, Defense mechanisms are a set of system that tries to distort the reality to cope with the anxiety. (1972:187) it is also known with the self defense mechanisms or ego defense mechanisms since it is the ego who takes the action of defending itself from anxiety. The function of defense mechanisms is to deny and distort reality that is too hard and painful to bear.

   According to Sigmund Freud theory which is explained by Boeree (1997:7) in his book *Personality Theories: Sigmund Freud* stated that denial involves blocking external events from awareness.

   According to Sigmund Freud theory which is explained by Boeree (1997:8) in his book *Personality Theories:
Sigmund Freud stated that Repression, which Anna Freud also called "motivated forgetting," is just that: not being able to recall a threatening situation, person, or event.

According to Sigmund Freud theory which is explained by Boeree (1997:9) in his book Personality Theories: Sigmund Freud stated that Projection which also called displacement outward is almost the complete opposite of turning against the self.

According to Sigmund Freud theory which is explained by Boeree (1997:10) in his book Personality Theories: Sigmund Freud stated that Reaction formation, which Anna Freud called "believing the opposite," is changing an unacceptable impulse into its opposite.

According to Sigmund Freud theory which is explained by Boeree (1997:11) in his book Personality Theories: Sigmund Freud stated that Rationalization is the cognitive distortion of "the facts" to make an event or an impulse less threatening.

According to Sigmund Freud theory which is explained by Boeree (1997:12) in his book Personality Theories: Sigmund Freud stated that Sublimation is the transforming of an unacceptable impulse, whether it is sex, anger, fear, or whatever, into a socially acceptable, even productive form.

ANALYSIS

The Proofs of Jin Seon’s Defense Mechanism

Dealing with Jin Seon’s Defense Mechanism, the thesis writer intended to focus on six types of defense mechanism that are: denial, repression, projection, reaction formation, rationalization and sublimation. Dealing with these six defense mechanism the thesis writer found four proofs for denial, two proofs for repression, two proofs for projection, one proof for reaction formation, three proofs for rationalization and two proofs for sublimation. The total of proofs that found is fourteen proofs of Jin Seon’s defense mechanism included among the six defense mechanisms.

The proof of Jin Seon’s denial occurs when his dad asks Jin to prove that he is different from him, and he deserves to have Kyun Yoon next to him. It describes from the act in chapter 90 quotations as follows:

“You already know Jin Seon!!!”, Dongsoo Seon yells
“You already know what kind of person you are”, Dongsoo Seon yells
“You know that we’re the same!!!”, Dongsoo Seon yells

No….! NO!!!!!!!”, Jin Seon refuses “Then prove it!!!!”, Dongsoo Seon says “But you????”, Dongsoo Seon says “Like a coward, you distorted your own memories!! You twisted your memories to suit yourself you deceived countless people and slandered me!!!, Dongsoo Seon says

“Think again, honestly…. Back then… who was it that threw you from the roof that’s the truth that you don’t want to face.”, Dongsoo Seon says (Kim and Hwang, 2014:90) (See the illustration in Appendices: Picture 4.10-4.18)

From the quotation above, Jin Seon refuses to believe on his dad’s story of how Jin always be since he was a toddler. In this act Jin’s denial occur when Jin say No… before his dad finish his word he do not want to admit his psychopathic side which his dad wants him to be. And the second act is describe Jin Seon’s denial through his dad’s word which say that he is such a coward who distort and twisted his own memory so it could be accepted, he twisted the incident he got when he was a child and blamed his father for the incident when he was thrown from the top of the hospital building whereas it isn’t his dad the one to blame and it is the truth that he doesn’t want to face is his mother.

The second defense mechanism that used by Jin Seon is Repression, Jin Seon used this defense mechanism to distort his own memories and twisted it into new memory which he could accept
it and the proof of Jin Seon’s repression can be seen in the quotation as follows:
“My oldest memory is of lying in a hospital bed but I also have dreams of what I think happened before that. Dreams of someone pushing me off a roof top. **And the person in my dreams who pushes me off the roof has always been my dad**”, Jin Seon says (Kim and Hwang, 2014:32)

“You tried to kill me!! On the roof of the hospital!! Because of that I lost one of my eyes… and my joints are a mess and yet you dare to lie to me like that?

**“Do you really not remember? Do you really… not remember what happened at the time?”**, Dongsoo Seon says (Kim and Hwang, 2015:91)

“Why couldn’t I remember…. For all that time…?”
Jin Seon says

**“Mom is the one who threw me off the roof and she called me a demon”**, Jin Seon says (Kim and Hwang, 2014:92)

From the quotation above it can be seen that Jin got amnesia after the incident and his only and last memory he had was only when he woke up in the hospital, and a dream he always has seems referring to the accident he got, and from that dream he always believes that the one who pushes him off the roof is his dad, in the second quotation we can see that Jin express his memory he always believes that his dad tried to kill him from the roof of the hospital, Jin’s dad try to stimulate Jin’s memory by asking him “Do you really not remember? Do you really… not remember what happened at the time?”, Dongsoo Seon says (Kim and Hwang, 2015:91)

In the quotation above it can be seen that after Jin remembers the true memory of his past that the one who throw him from the hospital roof isn’t his dad but his mom, Jin still tried to blame everything to his dad, he blames his dad that his mom got insane because of him, it shows from the quotation above “Mom went Insane because of you.” Jin said (Kim and Hwang, 2014:92) after he said that Jin’s hallucination or Jin’s superego representation comes and asks him the truth cause of his mom got insane, Jin Seon’s superego representation blames Jin for the sake of his mother’s madness because of doing such a thing but Jin Seon refuses it is described when Jin said
“N-No!!! It’s not my fault!!!!” (Kim and Hwang, 2014:92) and when Jin asked whose fault then, he asked it was his dad’s fault, his dad made him do that from this quotation represent his unacceptable side inside him which involves his tendency to blame his dad then he could be accepted.

The fourth Jin Seon’s defense mechanism is reaction formation, this defense mechanism used by Jin Seon to cover the proof that he the accomplish of a serial killer. It can be seen from the quotation as follows:

“Is there …. Something else that you’re not telling me about?”, Manny Kim says

“…. I’m going to deal with this. (Please…) Just… Keep this as a secret. Otherwise, my dad will kill you. He will kill you…!!!”, Jin Seon says (Kim and Hwang, 2014:49) (See the illustration in Appendices: Picture 4.23- 4.24)

From the quotation above it can be seen that Jin Seon tries to avoid Manny Kim question by not answering it and just asks Manny Kim to keep this as secret, and the secret that Jin told is about his father which is a serial killer and his violence towards the innocent women who has been killed by his father. Manny tries to repeal the truth behind Jin Soen’s story because he feels there is something else which Jin Seon hides from him and he ensures himself and ask the question ‘as the quotation above. But Jin doesn’t answer Manny’s question and just asks him to keep this as a secret otherwise he will die, and Jin is going to deal with his murderer dad. Jin didn’t mention that he is also involved and had an important role in that serial killer he only told Manny that his father is a murderer whereas he didn’t mention his name and just deny it by switching the context of the conversation and say nothing to Manny’s question which is considered as reaction formation defense mechanism.

The fifth defense mechanism is rationalization. Rationalization defense mechanism is used by Jin to excuse him to do something that seems unacceptable to be accepted. The first rationalization defense mechanism is used by Jin Seon in chapter 72 can be seen from the quotation as follows:

“Kyun, This is the last time. Let’s not worry. He’s faithful to his deals. I just have to do my part. Let’s be happy… let’s just get through this…”, Jin Seon says (Kim and Hwang, 2014:72)

From this quotation Jin tried to gaining his happiness with Kyun Yoon to justify what he is doing and excusing this for the sake of his and Kyun Yoon happiness by killing someone it shows from the quotation “This is the last time” which shows something that Jin used to do but now he not doing it anymore but he wills to do it again it is very clear that Jin will back to be his dad accomplish again even he knows it isn’t good idea to do this, but he is excused it for his and Kyun Yoon’s happiness.

The last Jin Seon’s defense mechanism is sublimation, this defense mechanism used by Jin Seon to sublime him to be a better person from his past, and he proofs that he wouldn’t be a person that his dad wants him to be Jin Seon’s defense mechanism is shown from the quotation as follows:

“I forgive you”, Jin Seon says (Kim and Hwang, 2014:92)

From the quotation above, after Jin Seon asks his dad to die for him, he has an internal conflict inside him about not letting himself fallen into his dad expectation that he is similar from his dad, he is also a demon, and he is also a killer like his dad, that what was his dad want Jin Seon’s to be, his superego tried to convince himself not to fallen in that pit, he should escape from that pit and think of someone that very important for him outside the pit to make him release from the dark circle that his dad made, after a long thinking. He decided to forgive his dad and he proofs that he isn’t similar to his dad he is more than his parents.

The Causal Factors of Jin Seon’s Defense Mechanism

The causal factor of Jin Seon’s denial, in this second causal factor is when Dongsoo Seon Jin Seon’s father told his lost memory to him but he still doesn’t want to believe the truth and still doesn’t admit it. This idea is supported by the following quotation:
“Mommy… Is what I did so wrong…. That you had to … do this???? I’ll be good now… so… don’t cry mommy.” said Jin Seon (Kim and Hwang, 2014:91)

From the quotation above those conversations between Jin Seon and his mom before Jin is thrown off the roof top and lost his memory have a very big impact of how does Jin Seon react and behave to his dad’s murdering behavior, his point of view and feeling towards his dad are totally different from before he lost his memory, and the reason why did Jin Seon distort his own memories because his promises when he was thrown by his mom, he said that “I’ll be good now… so… don’t cry mommy” the idea of this quotation is he wouldn’t do such thing again and will be a good child by removing his memory that he used to be a psychopath to be. He wouldn’t be that kind of person again so, he distort the memory and turns himself to hate his dad because of his mom who said that his dad is a demon and a bad person then Jin Soen’s unconscious mind twisted his memory by using that words which he creates to blame his dad to cause the roof top incident and eraser the truth of that incident so that Jin always blame his dad for that incident.

The second is the causal factor of Jin Seon’s repression this idea is supported with the following quotation as follows:

“Is that how you erased your own memories? Judging from the way that I just came out now, I hues your memories weren’t simply erased as an aftereffect of the accident.” Jin Seon’s childhood representation said (Kim and Hwang, 2014:92)

From the quotation above it is described that Jin Seon’s lost memory isn’t just because of aftereffect of the accident, but there are other factors that is his cowardice to admit his past which is couldn’t be accepted morally and he intentionally erased it because his mom didn’t like him to be a murderer like his dad, and he’s too afraid to face the reality that he has a sense of murderer like his dad.

The third Jin Seon’s causal factor is projection and this projection is supported with the following quotation:

“Shut Up. Fine, mom was the one who threw me off the roof I remember now… however, how does the fact that I remembered that change?? Mom went insane because of you.” Jin Seon says (Kim and Hwang, 2014:92)

The quotation above of Jin Seon’s projection causal factor is when he couldn’t remember the one who threw him off the hospital is his mom, and the reason why he couldn’t remember it is because he loves his mom and he doesn’t make his mom cry and call him as a demon anymore and his dad is more suit to take over his mom place to be the one who should be blamed because he is a bad person, the word “how does the fact that I remembered that change?” it is very clear that Jin doesn’t even care whether his mom is guilty or not, he will still blame everything to his dad.

The fourth Jin Seon’s causal factor is reaction formation and this first reaction formation is supported with the following quotation:

“… I’m going to deal with this. (Please…)Just… Keep this as a secret. Otherwise, my dad will kill you. He will kill you…!!!!”, Jin Seon says (Kim and Hwang, 2014:49) (See the illustration in Appendices: Picture 4.29-4.31)

From the quotation above and the picture above it is represent that Jin’s reason not telling Manny Kim the truth of himself is in order Manny should be careful to face his dad, and implicitly in the second pictures above there is an illustration that Jin directly flashback his accomplish activity after being asked by Manny about other secret that he hid Jin hides that secret in order to make Manny doesn’t hate him, because Manny is his only friend out of Kyun Yoon. Manny Kim’s trust is very important for him.

The fifth Jin Seon’s causal factor is rationalization defense mechanism. The following quotation will support the idea: “Kyun, this is the last time. Let’s not worry. He’s faithful to his deals. I just have to do my part. Let’s be happy… let’s just get through this…”, (Kim and Hwang, 2014:72)

The quotation above it is representing Jin Seon’s rationalization which he uses it for his excuse in helping his dad to murder again. And
the reason of Jin Seon does this is in order his dad release Kyun Yoon for his murdering target and in order for Kyun Yoon and his happiness. Then in sake of his and Kyun Yoon happiness he wills to be his dad accomplish again even he said that this is for the last time.

The last Jin Seon’s causal factor is sublimation, the causal factor of sublimation which is supported by the quotation as follows:


From the quotation above it is very clear that Jin Seon is motivated to escape from his dad expectation of him, once if he kills his dad, he will lose and he will fulfill his dad’s expectation that he isn’t different from his dad. The word of “intense longing” in the quotation above means the big motivation and wills to climb of the pit are Kyun Yoon, Manny’s younger sister, Kyun’s grandpa, and his mom. Because of that motivation Jin could forgive his dad and doesn’t take any revenge to his dad.

The Effects of Jin Seon’s Defense Mechanism on Himself, on Kyun Yoon and on His Father. In this part, the thesis writer will divide into four divisions into three divisions which get the effect of Jin Seon’s defense mechanism. It can be found starts from the effects of Jin Seon’s defense mechanism on himself, on Kyun Yoon, and on his dad. On himself The effect of Jin Seon’s denial and repression makes him distort his own memory and lost some of his memories and it is supported from the following quotation:

“My oldest memory is of lying in a hospital bed but I also have dreams of what I think happened before that. Dreams of someone pushing me off a roof top. And the person in my dreams who pushes me off the roof has always been my dad” Jin Seon said (Kim and Hwang, 2014:32) “Think again, honestly…. Back then… who was it that threw you from the roof that’s the truth that you don’t want to face.”DongsooSeon said (Kim and Hwang, 2014:90) “Why couldn’t I remember…. For all that time…?” “Mom is the one who threw me off the roof and she called me a demon” Jin Seon said (Kim and Hwang, 2014:92)

From the quotations above we can described Jin Seon has distort his memory and he believes the truth that he made himself for years and he couldn’t remember anything at all about the truth that his dad isn’t the one to blame it’s affect Jin Seon psychological which made him sometime has his own delusion about how his dad is and looks like and he represent his dad like a demon who could kill him anytime he don’t need him anymore.

1 The effects on Kyun Yoon
Jin Seon’s defense mechanism effects on Kyun Yoon is supported by the quotation as follows:

“When I saw her smile, and felt my heart race, I decided.” Jin Seon said (Kim and Hwang, 2014:25)

From the quotation above it is described that Kyun Yoon has stimulated Jin Seon’s bravery to against his dad who is doing a wrong thing for targeting Kyun Yoon to be his next victim of his serial killer even though Jin is his dad accomplish, but after met Kyun Yoon Jin decided to protect her live from his dad and change himself to be a better person, and the effect of Jin Seon’s sublimation of defense mechanism to Kyun Yoon is Kyun Yoon save and live happily while waiting for Jin Seon’s punishment at Jail.
2 On His Father
The third person who affects Jin Seon’s defense mechanism is his father. His father is the most affected person of Jin Seon’s defense mechanism because his dad is the one who caused Jin Seon to apply his defense mechanism. The idea is supported by the quotation as follows:
“Like a coward, you distorted your own memories!! You twisted your memories to suit yourself you deceived countless people and slandered me!!” Dongsoo Seon said (Kim and Hwang, 2014:90)

“My oldest memory is of lying in a hospital bed but I also have dreams of what I think happened before that. Dream of someone pushing me off a roof top. And the person in my dreams who pushes me off the roof has always been my dad” Jin Seon said (Kim and Hwang, 2014:32)

“Shut Up. Fine, mom was the one who threw me off the roof I remember now… however, how does the fact that I remembered that change??” “Mom went Insane because of you.” Jin Seon said (Kim and Hwang, 2014:92)

“Then, whose fault is it….?” Jin’s Hallucination (Superego) said “Dad….?” Jin Seon said (Kim and Hwang, 2014:92)

From the quotations above it is clear that Jin Seon slandered and blamed everything bad that he had been through and done is his dad’s fault he blames his dad for the sake of everything, he blames his dad for the sake of his accident and his physical disabilities, his mom madness and even his psychopathic desire when he were a child until he is seventeen years old, denying the truth and distorting his own memories about his dad. All of those are shown in the quotations above.

CONCLUSION

The thesis writer concludes that there are fifteen proofs of Jin Seon’s defense mechanism and it is divided into four proofs for denial, three proofs for repression, two proofs for projection, one proof for reaction formation, three proofs for rationalization, and two proofs for sublimation. Besides, the thesis writer also concludes that there are ten causal factors of Jin Seon’s defense mechanism that are: two denial causal factors, one repression causal factor, two projection causal factor, one reaction formation causal factor, two rationalization
causal factor, two sublimation causal factor. While both of them, the thesis writer also conclude that there are effects of Jin Seon’s defense mechanism on himself, on Kyun Yoon, and on his dad.

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