

Savage coping: Exploring deviant acts as an outlet for relieving instinctive force in Eka Kurniawan's *Man Tiger*

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Abstract

This study aims to explain the ways in which the main character's attachment to the white tiger figure can impact his personality and to describe the coping strategies that the main character employs in response to the white tiger attachment. The result of this research indicates that the main character, Margio, is depicted having deviant personalities after he believes that he possesses a white tiger inside his body. Margio's belief in the attachment of the white tiger then led him to have deviant actions. Margio's belief of white tiger figure can be explained by the cause of suggestion from the elders and childhood trauma he experienced from his abusive father. Margio's deviant personalities also can be explained with coping strategies perspective. In the story, Margio portrays some coping strategies to cope with his problems. They are fantasy, denial, suppression, repression, and displacement. In conducting this study, I use psychological approaches by Sigmund Freud and coping strategies perspective. The novel *Man Tiger* by Eka Kurniawan is used as the primary data of this study and which was then analyzed using descriptive qualitative methods to achieve the purpose of the study. Based on the study's findings, it can be concluded that Margio, the main character of Kurniawan's novel *Man Tiger* is depicted having deviant personalities. Margio's deviant personality is caused by his belief of possessing an attachment with the white tiger figure inside his body. Moreover, Margio's deviant personalities are also caused by the suggestion he received when he was child and his childhood trauma. In addition, the deviant actions also can be seen from coping strategies which are fantasy, denial, suppression, repression, and displacement.

Keywords: Psychoanalysis; Childhood Trauma; Coping Strategies; Fantasy

INTRODUCTION

Unnatural things or behavior such as trance or possession, visions, raptures and other extraordinary experiences are often associated with mystical things (Wainwright, 2021). These unnatural things and behaviors are prominently represented in some Southeast Asian's literary works such as in the Philippines, Cambodia, Timor Leste, and Indonesia (Lye, 2016). One of the examples of the magical realism literature requirements may be found in Asia. In Japanese literature, for instance, there is a folklore story with the existence of a spirit animal in the form of a fox spirit that can shapeshift into humans known as Kitsune. This Kitsune folklore later inspired Akira Kurosawa to write and direct a movie entitled "Dreams". Magical realism can also be found in Southeast Asia. Scholars argue that many Southeast Asian writers use magical realism in their works to illustrate how religious myths and animist beliefs influence the way natives perceive their world (Lye, 2016).

In Indonesia, people also believe in the existence of spirits. People in Sumatra, Indonesia, for instance, believe in the existence of animal spirit, especially a tiger spirit (Fathonah, 2020). The Sumatran community in the Kerinci area calls it as "Cindaku" which refers to manusia harimau (man possessed by the tiger spirit). However, only selected men who have special spiritual abilities can become a Cindaku and they do not turn into the tiger, but only possessed by the spirit of the tiger.

Eka Kurniawan clearly portrays this phenomenon through Margio, the main character of his prominent novel *Man Tiger* (2015). In addition, the novel tells about the 20 year old boy who possessed white tiger spirit and started to show unnatural behaviors. Kurniawan (2015) told in his novel that Margio, who is known as the sweetest and most polite child among his peers, started to have deviant action after believing that he is possessing the white tiger inside his body. Margio killed Anwar Sadat mercilessly by biting his left neck. Fathonah (2020) considered Margio's actions as mystical things since the presence of a supernatural white tiger exists in the story. Moreover, the white tiger figure gives Margio supernatural power that leads him to kill Anwar Sadat. In this case, Margio's act should be considered as deviant actions. A deviant is seen as a social construct that interacts with

socially unacceptable behavior and eventually results in a personified portrayal of criminality (Awotula, 2022).

Men's actions or behavior can be explained through psychology. Diener and Lucas (2019) argued in their study that people's distinctive thought, feeling, and behavior tendencies are a reflection of his personality traits. Therefore, the research tries to explain the behavior of the main character, as told in the novel "Man Tiger" by Eka Kurniawan. Furthermore, the researcher tries to analyze this phenomena from a psychoanalysis perspective, a theory by Sigmund Freud in purpose to explain human behavior.

Freud claimed that our unconscious always influences our behaviors. For instance, threatened and painful experiences can make someone feel stressed and uncomfortable (Niaz, et al., 2019). Thus, they need coping strategies to handle that stressful situation. Coping strategies are human's reactions that occur when there is a state of psychological distress. Coping strategies work consciously with the intention to solve someone's problems (Cramer, 1998). The concept of coping strategies includes methods for controlling stress and anxiety that reduce its negative aspects and enhance the sense of personal control (Conceição, et al., 2019). People employ coping strategies to deal with the stress, pain, and challenging conditions they encounter in life. Moreover, coping strategies can be the kind of defense mechanism that works unconsciously. The defense mechanism itself includes withdrawing into fantasy, isolating, denying, distracting, controlling, idealizing, devaluing, projecting, introjecting, repressing, regressing, being aggressive, being passive, and becoming depressed (Recht, 2020).

On account of that, it is interesting to investigate how the coping strategies are portrayed through Margio's deviant acts and behaviors. Hence, this research tries to reveal the deviant behaviors of the main character associated with the white tiger figure using a psychoanalysis perspective proposed by Sigmund Freud.

METHODS

The method of research used in this study is a descriptive qualitative method where the findings will be described using texts systematically. Thus, this study focuses more on the words, phrases, or sentences as the data of the study, rather than numbers. In other words, the qualitative method approach does not focus on the numbers. Therefore, in this study the researcher gives more attention to the texts in *Man Tiger* (2015) including dialogue, author's narrative and the description of character's thought and behaviors to be compiled and analyzed as the data.

The result of this study will be an explanation of the deviation personality of the main character as the result of the attachment of the white tiger figure and an explanation of what coping strategies that are deployed by the main character's actions towards the attachment of the white tiger figure.

The researcher does a close reading of the *Man Tiger* novel by Eka Kurniawan. Then, the researcher identifies them, inventorying the data into an inventory table, classifying the data, analyzing the data and interpreting them in the theoretical framework then linked into psychology and coping strategies perspective.

In collecting the data, the researchers do some following steps: The first step that I do is doing the close reading of the *Man Tiger* novel by Eka Kurniawan several times to get a deeper understanding about what issues that I raise in this study. After reading several times, I also take notes on important events and identify the data in the form of words, phrases, clauses or sentences from the *Man Tiger* novel. The data is then listed and put in the inventory table in purpose to be easier to analyze. After all of the data is input into the inventory table, then I classify the data based on what defense mechanism Margio projected in the story. Next step is to analyze the data. The data is analyzed using Freud's psychoanalysis theory especially focusing on the defense mechanism concept.

In the study, I conduct the analysis using the descriptive-qualitative approach to gather, process, and analyze the data. This method puts an emphasis on narrative comprehension, description, and analysis. In doing so, the researcher is actively involved in gathering data, processing it, and ultimately analyzing it. This entails tasks such as collecting information, organizing it, and examining it closely. Data analysis was implemented with certain approaches and theories to reveal answers to the problems. In this case, I am using descriptive-qualitative methods and theoretical frameworks to scrutinize the data in order to uncover solutions or answers to the research problems or questions.

In addition to this issue, the data were analyzed based on Freudian psychoanalytic perspective focusing on coping strategies. I describe the deviant personalities of the main character using a psychoanalysis perspective. His deviant personalities that are depicted in the novel are killing Anwar

Sadat by biting his neck, acting as a tiger, stealing and consuming alcohol. Furthermore, the data were also analyzed by explaining how coping strategies portray the white tiger possessed by Margio. I examine and study the quotes, conversations, and monologues in the novel as I analyze the content to support my hypothesis.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This part addresses two main problems. The first will discuss the deviant personality of Margio that is affected by the white tiger's attachment. And the second will explain what coping strategies are deployed by the main character's actions towards the attachment of the white tiger figure.

The Deviant Personality of the Main Character as the Result of the Attachment of the White Tiger Figure

A deviant personality is viewed as a social construct that combines with socially unacceptable behaviors in order to form a personified portrayal of criminality (Awotula, 2022). Numerous societal concerns, including mental illness, disability, alcoholism, etc., have generally been addressed using the fundamental tenets of the labeling construct of the deviant personality traits. Personality traits are reflected in people's actions, ideas, and emotions (Diener & Lucas, 2019). Sigmund Freud claimed that people's personality and behavior are influenced by their unconsciousness. He also argued that people's childhood also gives big impacts on their personality (McLeod, 2018). According to Browne, & Winkelman (2007), if someone experienced worse childhood trauma they may have deviant actions that lead into criminality in their adulthood. For example, people who experienced worse childhood trauma can have deviant actions such as murdering, stealing, and consuming alcohol. In addition, besides childhood trauma, the cause of deviant actions is also in the form of brainwashing or suggestion from the elders. Someone who from childhood is suggested and being told about something, can believe in that and do whatever the teller says, especially when it is a bad thing. This is because children's minds are like a responding machine that can be easily influenced. Moreover, children naturally also have a tendency to believe what they are told (Jaswal, 2010). This case is represented in Kurniawan's novel *Man Tiger* where the main character, Margio, showed a deviant personality. His deviant personality eventuates after he believes that he is hosting a white tiger figure inside his body. In addition, those deviant personalities of white tiger figure possession are not only caused by childhood trauma, but also brainwashing when he was child. The result of the white tiger attachment toward Margio's personality.

Margio, the main character of Kurniawan's *Man Tiger* novel (2015), is depicted engaging in deviant personalities. Those deviant personalities are started after Margio believes that he possesses a white tiger figure inside his body. Before believing that he possessed a white tiger, Margio is known as a well behave boy in his society even though he live with his cruel father who always torture him and his mother and sister. In addition, Margio started to act deviantly after he believes he has met a white tiger. In addition, Margio's most horrific deviant behavior that became the main problem in this novel is that Margio killed Anwar Sadat by biting his neck. Margio's deviant act is shown in the very beginning of the novel, On the evening Margio killed Anwar Sadat, Kyai Jahro was blissfully busy with his fishpond. (Kurniawan, 2015 p. 1)

From the quotation above, we know that Margio has killed Anwar. The trigger that makes Margio kill Anwar Sadat is because Anwar Sadat refused to marry his mother after making her pregnant. Margio does this cruel action with a belief that he possesses a white tiger figure inside his body. Margio perceives that this white tiger has the power to manipulate him into killing Anwar Sadat.

Because of Margio's belief that he is hosting white tiger figure inside his body, Margio kills Anwar Sadat by biting Anwar Sadat's jugular. Moreover, the process of how Margio bites Anwar Sadat's neck is also explained in the novel. We can know it from the passages below:

*He sank his teeth into the left side of Anwar Sadat's neck, like a man roughly kissing the skin below his lover's ear, complete with grunts and passionate warmth.
He nearly chewed off the head, gnawing at Anwar Sadat's neck until the trachea was visible, a flash of ivory before the flooding red. (Kurniawan, 2015 pp. 29-30)*

Margio bites Anwar Sadat's left neck brutally without any hesitation. Only using his teeth and no weapons, Margio bites Anwar Sadat's neck even until the trachea can be seen clearly. Margio's

deviant action didn't stop at his first bite. He even followed it up with a second, more lethal bite. He bites Anwar Sadat's neck twice to make a deeper bite. He really wants to make sure that Anwar Sadat is clearly dead.

Margio's actions of killing Anwar Sadat can be explained through psychoanalysis utilizing a personality traits approach, as Margio exhibits a personality trait of low self-control. Self-control is defined as a person's ability to restrain and govern their actions (Gladstone & Lemaire, 2019). External variables, according to Beck et al. (2020), undermine a person's sense of control, resulting in unanticipated actions. People with limited self-control may find it difficult to control their own behaviors.

Margio's act of killing Anwar Sadat by biting his neck then led him to be arrested and put in jail in the subdistrict military headquarters. Weirdly, when he is being interrogated, he says that he does not kill Anwar Sadat, but the white tiger inside his body does. Because of this belief, Margio kills Anwar Sadat without any weapon but by biting Anwar Sadat's neck just like a tiger preying on its quarry. Margio believes that the tiger takes control of his body. Margio even told the Police that arrested him because of his killing action, that there was something in his body that was very strong which controlled him to kill Anwar Sadat without any weapon. Margio believes he has a portrayal of a white tiger inside his body. This white tiger is thought to direct and influence Margio's behavior. And with this, the tiger incites Margio to murder someone who wrongfully treated him.

He knew the beast wasn't really alive. In his twenty years on the planet, he had gone in and out of the jungle on the outskirts of town and never seen such a thing. There were boars, small clouded leopards, ajaks, but no white tigers nearly the size of a cow. It reminded him of his grandfather who had passed away years ago. (Kurniawan, 2015 p.38)

Margio is awakened by what he believes to be a white tiger form, but he is aware that it is not real. He has never seen a white tiger like that when approaching or leaving the jungle, which supports this. This means that the white tiger depicted here is merely Margio's imagination because he has long yearned for a white tiger. When Margio wakes up the following morning, he continues his previous night's fantasies about the white tiger. Margio is aware that the beast is not actually living, as described in the passage above. However, when he realized that the spirit tiger was not real, the tiger disappeared. That's when Margio acted strangely by clawing at the surau door and roaring. Soon after his first meeting with the tiger, Margio believes that the white tiger spirit is now inside his body and he starts to act deviantly.

The Causes Behind Margio's Attachment to the white tiger

Before all of his deviant actions appeared, Margio experienced a lot of things when he was a child. He always likes mahabharata and wayang stories. When he was a child, Margio was also always taught about genies and spirit by his grandfather. This led to Margio's beliefs about mystical things growing stronger. Margio also experienced childhood trauma in the form of physical and emotional abuse. This makes Margio really hate his father who always abuses him and makes him believe he possesses a white tiger figure in order to kill his father.

Margio Believes in Genies and Mahabaratha Stories

From an early age, Margio was taught and told about supernatural beings by his elders that made him totally convinced in their existence. Margio's minds are being influenced by the story that his elders tell. This is because children's minds, like a responding machine, can be easily influenced. Moreover, children naturally have a tendency to believe what they are told (Jaswal, 2010). In this case, Margio's grandfather, who has passed away, had a significant influence on suggesting Margio to believe in genies. Since he was eight years old, Margio has enjoyed visiting his grandfather to get away from his abusive father. Margio really enjoys spending time with his grandfather, who has frequently told him tales involving genies.

The old man would take the boy to a rivulet he called the Kingdom of Genies. Never ever tease a girl genie, he always said, but if one of them falls in love with you, take her, for that is a blessing. (Kurniawan, 2015 p.40)

Margio has always enjoyed visiting his grandpa's place to get away from his abusive father. Because he can find contentment and tranquility with his grandfather, Margio genuinely loves him. Here, his grandpa enjoys telling a genie tale. This strengthens Margio's faith in mystical phenomena. Even Margio hopes to come face to face with a genie or another supernatural being someday.

Young children tend to believe what their elders say (Jaswal, 2010). This also made Margio believe in his grandfather's story about the existence of the genies. Even Margio himself really wants to meet the genies in person and the genie would fall in love with him. Ma Muah, the village storyteller, also enjoys telling tales involving genies to children. As a child, Margio was really interested in genie stories.

Beside his belief since childhood about genies, Margio is also fond of Mahabharata and wayang stories since childhood. Margio comes to the conclusion that he is like demigod Kresna, who when enraged will transform into enormous monsters, as a result of his fascination in supernatural events and Mahabharata tales. Moreover, after he believes that he possessed the white tiger inside his body.

He always likened himself to the demigod Kresna, who at the height of his merciless rage could turn into the giant Brahala, with his thousand heads, thousand hands, and immeasurable fury. No one could stop him, not even the gods. (Kurniawan, 201 p.51)

Margio's belief on supernatural things since he was child, makes him believe that everything that he cannot explain is related to mystical things. In fact he likened himself to the demigod Krishna after believing he was hosting the white tiger inside his body. Margio believes that every time he is angry, there is white tiger figure inside his body that wants to come out. Here, he likened his white tiger with the demigod Kresna's brahala monsters. ... *his white tiger. His Brahala. (Kurniawan, 201 p.53)*

Margio's childhood trauma

In his life, Margio experienced abuse from his father since he was child. Not only become a victim of his abusive father, Margio also often sees his father beaten up by his mother and his sister. This family then led to childhood trauma. According to Peredra et al. (2020), there are several different types of family violence, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, and mental or psychological abuse. In this case, Margio mostly experienced physical abuse from his father. *Back then, Komar often hit Nuraeni right in front of their son, beating her black and blue. Margio was still too small to intervene, and he often got whacked himself. (Kurniawan, 2015 p.107)*

Because Margio was still at a young age, he did not dare to help his mother from his father's abuse. This domestic violence is even known by many people in Margio's neighborhood. Sadrah *also got to know the father, and had seen the brutal man beat the child for the smallest of offenses. (Kurniawan, 2015 p. 8)*

Sadrah often sees Margio's father, Komar bin Syueb, beat Margio even for the smallest mistakes. This kind of physical abuse then makes Margio really hate his father. Furthermore, people who had experienced abuse in their childhood also tend to have psychological problems that can manifest into anxiety and depression, sleep disturbance, and low self-esteem (Pereda et al., 2020). The anxiety and depression are clearly seen in Margio's personality. Margio is depressed by his father's behavior, but he can't do anything about it.

Because of his decades of hatred towards his father, Margio eventually wants to kill his father. This hatred and anger are triggered after the death of his little sister, Marian. Margio's mother became a happier woman with Marian around. When he sees his mother happy, it makes Margio happy. Marian died soon after her birth, and Margio blamed his father for her death because he refused to help care for Marian at all and wasn't even present during Marian's burial.

This event eventually led to the memory of Margio's childhood fairy tale about his grandfather who inherited a white tiger. Margio then is eager to possess that white tiger so he could have the power to kill his father easily.

This problem was also studied by Aulia (2020). According to her study, Margio's father-abuse experiences lead to the development of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Aulia also claims that Margio's father's maltreatment is the source of his psychiatric trauma. The character's post-traumatic stress disorder then manifests into another form that Margio believes as a "white tiger". Thus, it can

be said that Margio's belief of the existence of the white tiger inside his body is a manifestation of his psychiatric trauma.

Coping Strategies Deployed by Margio towards His Deviant Actions

In *Man Tiger* novel by Eka Kurniawan (2015), the main character Margio is described having deviant actions. A deviant is seen as a social construct that interacts with socially unacceptable behavior and eventually results in a personified portrayal of criminality (Awotula, 2022). Margio has also portrayed deviant actions inclined to criminal acts such as killing Anwar Sadat by biting his neck, stealing his father's chicken, and getting drunk. Beside his deviant action of killing by biting a neck that is caused by childhood trauma and brainwashing, Margio also revealed some actions that are linked into coping strategies that he used to cope with his problems. Some of Margio's deviant actions can be explained through a coping strategies perspective.

Margio employs some coping strategies to deal with his problems in life. According to Cramer (1998), coping strategies are used consciously and full of intention in order to solve someone's problems. In other words, people employ coping strategies to deal with stress, pain, and tough situations in their lives (Conceição et al., 2019).

In this novel, Margio uses some coping strategies such as fantasy, denial, repression, suppression, and displacement. The coping strategies fantasy is manifested in the white tiger figure that is believed by Margio emerged in his body and kills Anwar Sadat. Margio uses denial to deflect from his act of drinking alcohol and the hideous facts he must face. Margio also uses coping strategies suppression that he always likes to leave his home to avoid his abusive father. Furthermore, Margio portrayed repression by always repressing his emotions by acting tough in front of his father. And last but not least, Margio uses displacement coping strategies by hunting boar, stealing and confessing to murder to vent his anger. In addition, Margio's coping strategies will be thoroughly discussed in the following explanation:

The Attachment of the White Tiger as Manifestation of Margio's Fantasy

Fantasy is one of coping strategies that is frequently chosen by people to overcome their problems in life instead of facing reality (Bertens, 2006). People who have had a lot of difficulties and traumatic experiences in their lives are more likely to have a personality trait called fantasy proneness, which suggests a tendency for a strong, lasting commitment to fantasy and imagination (Bacon & Charlesford, 2018). In this story, Margio is portrayed residing out his fantasy of getting attached to the white tiger. Margio's fantasy here is in the form of the white tiger figure inside his body. The white tiger figure here is believed by Margio to be the one who kills Anwar Sadat. Whereas, Margio recognizes that the white tiger is not actually alive at the very beginning of their meeting. *He knew the beast wasn't really alive.* (Kurniawan, 2015 p.38)

From the quotation above, we know that Margio realizes that the white tiger is not real. Margio hadn't seen the white tiger in that way in reality. Here, Margio uses a fantasy of coping strategies to deal with his inability to stop thinking about the tiger before going to sleep. He continues to visualize the white tiger as a result until he wakes up in the morning. This fantasy then leads Margio to believe that he is possessing a white tiger figure inside his body. After believing the attachment of white tiger, Margio also starts to act deviantly and not normal in society. However, even though Margio knows that the white tiger is not really alive, he is still enjoying his fantasy.

When things get too much for us, we seek relief by withdrawing into a fantasy world (Bacon & Charlesford, 2018). Margio uses fantasy coping strategies when he can not face his numerous problems of his life including his problems with his father and the reality that his mother has an affair with someone else. Thus, Margio is triggered to fantasize the tiger that he saw in the circus that reminds him of his grandfather. And after that, Margio starts to use fantasy coping strategies.

According to Bacon & Charlesford (2018), the fantasy coping strategies can be explained deeply through fantasy proneness (FP). "Fantasy proneness" is defined as a personality trait that indicates a propensity for deep, significant, and sustained attachment to fantasy and imagination. Some people's fantasies may be so vivid that they are impossible to distinguish from reality. This also happens to Margio, when he starts to drown in his fantasy, Margio starts to believe that the white tiger is real. *Margio closed his eyes, ecstatic after his long wait, free from yearning, reassuring himself that the tales he'd heard as a child were all true.* (Kurniawan, 2015 p.44)

The night before Margio believes that he meets the white tiger, he leaves his house to avoid his intention to kill his father because of his father's abusive behaviors. That night, Margio sees the

circus and sees the tiger circus that triggers him to remember the story of white tiger. After watching the circus performance, Margio begins to imagine the story of the white tiger that his grandfather had told him.

That night he didn't go home. He wanted to be alone with the tigers in his head. He went to the surau close to midnight and lay there, seeing tigers on the ceiling, in the imam's niche, under the drum stand everywhere. (Kurniawan, 2015 p.50)

Before Margio believes in meeting the white tiger, he has imagined the white tiger everywhere in the surau. Here his fantasy of the white tiger has started. Margio starts to fantasize about the tiger on the ceiling, in the imam's niche, under the drum stand everywhere. After Margio believes that he meets the white tiger and the tiger emerges into his body, Margio feels like he has more power to act. This can be seen in Margio's actions of killing Anwar Sadat by biting his neck.

Therefore, it can be said that in novel *Man Tiger*, Kurniawan (2015) uses the white tiger as a form of coping strategies for the main character's psychological problems and it can be analyzed using Sigmund Freud's Psychoanalysis theory especially using coping strategies perspective.

Alcohol Consumption as Margio's Denial

Alcohol is often used as coping strategies for someone to forget his problems temporarily. In this case, alcohol can be used as a distraction from unpleasant reality (Downey & Crummy, 2022). In this novel, Kurniawan portrays Margio as consuming alcohol to avoid the reality that his mother is pregnant with Anwar Sadat.

Later that afternoon, at the nightwatch hut, he started drinking everything he could get his hands on, mostly bottles of beer mixed with arak from Agus Sofyan's stall. Lying there vomiting and coughing, he raved about a damned woman and a bloodthirsty fox. (Kurniawan, 2015 p.167)

Margio consumes alcoholic beverages until he is vomiting and coughing. He does this after knowing the painful reality for him that his mother, Nuraeni is having an affair with Anwar Sadat. Moreover, Margio witnessed firsthand the incident where her mother was making love with Anwar Sadat. And this affair makes her mother become pregnant with Anwar Sadat. This truth hurts Margio a lot. Thus, he tries to deny the painful reality he faces. Margio then distracts his complicated thoughts by consuming alcohol. Furthermore, researchers find individuals who lack adaptive coping mechanisms rely on maladaptive coping mechanisms consuming alcohol to cope with their problems (Britton, 2004).

In this case, Margio uses alcohol as his denial coping strategies to distract his thoughts from the painful reality he faces. The alcohol is consumed by Margio to distract himself from thinking about the affair of his mother. In this case, alcohol can be used as a distraction from unpleasant reality and to forget someone's problems temporarily. (Downey & Crummy, 2022).

Leaving Home as Margio's Suppression

Suppression refers to the intentional and conscious decision to prevent a thought or occurrence from causing emotional distress (Cramer, 1998). In the *Man Tiger* novel, Margio is depicted using suppression as his coping strategies. From 8 years old, when Margio and his family moved to the new house, Margio experienced a lot of suffering due to his father's abusive behaviors. Thus, Margio prefer to leave his home where his father torture him, his mother and his sister. *Incensed at the realization that he couldn't make good on his threat, Margio left home. (Kurniawan, 2015 p.46)*

To avoid family violence, Margio even prefers to sleep at the surau. This can be seen in the quotation below:

All that afternoon komar had been beating Nuraeni, and he didn't want to see it going on into the night. He planned to start his evening watching television and conclude it by sleeping at the surau. (Kurniawan, 2015 p.118)

Every time Margio witnesses his father abusing his mother, he likes to leave his home. Margio's behavior of leaving home to avoid his cruel father is one of coping strategies. Coping

methods are human responses to psychological suffering. People use coping mechanisms to manage their stress, discomfort, and difficult circumstances in life (Conceição et al., 2019). In this case of avoiding his cruel father and his home to have peace, Margio employs one of kinds of coping strategies namely suppression. According to Cramer (1998), suppression is an intentional and conscious decision that is used to prevent a thought from causing emotional distress (Cramer, 1998). To find peace and avoid his emotional discomfort, Margio chooses to leave his home.

Margio suppresses his feelings by doing other actions. When he is angry with his father for example, he chooses not to vent his anger to his father directly. Instead, he chose to leave his home and go to the circus to hide and sink himself into the large audiences there.

*... but this time he was impelled not by a desire to see something spectacular, but by a need to sink himself into a river of people, to lose himself in the noise, and to hide.
Margio had hoped to forget the anger he had brought here from home (Kurniawan, 2015 p.47)*

Before going to see the circus, Margio had intended to kill his father at home because of his father's abusive behavior towards his mother. Margio can not help his mother but also can not stand for his father's cruelty. However, he chooses not to let his emotions of killing his father peak, thus he prefers to leave his home and to watch the circus in the field. Margio's actions of leaving home and watching a circus in order to forget his anger is also one of coping strategies form of suppression. Margio uses suppression of leaving his house to prevent his anger to kill his father.

Feigning Strength as Margio's Repression

Repression is a conscious process of repressing our urges, emotions, memories, wants, etc. in order to prevent them from influencing our behavior (Bertens, 2006). In the novel *Man Tiger*, Kurniawan depicts the main character Margio using repression coping strategies. Margio also likes to repress his emotions. He always acts like he is a strong boy who has never cried since he was 8 years old. It can be seen in the following quotation:

Finally, Komar dragged him to a corner of the godown and gave him a talking-to, calling him an ungrateful brat. Margio said nothing, so Komar bin Syueb told him to speak, and when Margio was about to open his mouth his father saw something insolent in his expression and landed a biting slap on his face. His cheeks reddened and his eyes turned wet, but Margio never let himself cry. (Kurniawan, 2015 p.77)

Margio has been abused by his father since he was 7 years old. The abuse takes the form of verbal abuse, such as when Komar refers to him as an ungrateful brat. It also takes the form of physical abuse, such as slapping in the face. Even if the abuse irritates him so badly, Margio won't cry out. When Margio appears in front of his father, he pretends to be tough and strong. It is proof that Margio has suppressed his emotions ever since he was a young child.

In fact, Margio's sister, Mameh, knows that Margio is struggling to fight his own emotions. Mameh understands that Margio is suffering because of it. But she could see the boy's suffering, Sweet Margio was at a war with evil Margio, and it wouldn't end until his father's life was over. Mameh could see he was exhausted from fighting himself. (Kurniawan, 2015 p.56)

In his life, Margio likes to repress his emotions to deal with his problems. Repression happens when the ego defends itself whenever it feels threatened by undesired id impulses by suppressing those impulses, which pushes the offending emotions into the unconscious (Cuarto, 2022). In this case, the ego of Margio defends to act like he is tough. In fact he feels threatened by undesired id impulses to let out his emotions to cry. However, Margio suppresses those impulses, which pushes the offending emotions into the unconscious.

Hunting Boar, Stealing Chickens and Confessing Killing Intention As Margio's Displacement

Displacement is done by redirecting dissatisfaction with one object to another (Bertens, 2006). It means that a person will express feelings to a third party if they are unable to express them to another person owing to superego repression. This case is represented in Margio's actions throughout the novel. Margio is portrayed really hates his abusive father. This makes Margio really want to kill his father to end his and his family's suffering. However, he can not do that. Thus, he directs his hatred

towards his father by hunting boar, takes revenge for stealing his chickens, and confesses to his sister that he wants to kill his father. Margio also has hatred towards Anwar Sadat who has an affair with his mother. In this case, Margio also has intentions to kill Anwar Sadat. Instead of directing his emotions towards the targeted people, Margio chooses to confess to a third party.

Margio likes to go boar hunting with Major Sadrah and his friends. By doing this, Margio feels like he can release his emotions and hatred towards his father by killing the boar. This event can be seen in the following quotation:

Every time he goaded a boar with his spear, piercing it just enough to make the animal fear for its life, he thought of Komar bin Syueb beneath the spearpoint. (Kurniawan, 2015 p.51)

Margio always thinks that the boar is his father when he kills the boar with his spear. Margio can not tell his father directly about his feelings nor kill his father directly. Thus, Margio uses displacement coping strategies by displacing the father as the boar that he kills during the hunting.

In addition, Margio also uses displacement to take revenge towards his father by stealing his father's chickens. Margio vents his anger towards his father by stealing his father's chicken and cooks it. *It reminded Margio of the times he would steal Komar's chickens in petty revenge. (Kurniawan, 2015 p.156)*

Moreover, Margio does not stop at that displacement. He also portrays displacement by confessing to some people that he wants to kill someone. First, Margio tells Mameh that he wants to kill his father. Beside his hate towards his father, Margio also hates Anwar Sadat who has made his mother pregnant. Margio feels so sad and can not accept this reality easily. On the other hand, he cannot tell Anwar Sadat his feelings truly, so he confesses to Major Sadrah and Agung Yudha that he is going to kill someone (Anwar Sadat).

CONCLUSION

Based on the study's findings, it can be concluded that Margio, the main character of Kurniawan's novel *Man Tiger* is depicted having deviant personalities. Margio's deviant personalities here are reflected in his thoughts, feelings and behaviors.

Margio's deviant personality is caused by his belief of possessing an attachment with the white tiger figure inside his body. His belief of the attachment with the white tiger is caused by Margio's childhood. In his childhood Margio is being suggested by his elders about the story of white tiger that can be possessed by someone chosen and can give him power. Margio then believes in this story and also believes that he possessed the white tiger inside his body. Beside that, in his childhood, Margio also experienced abuse from his father in the form of physical and emotional abuse. This makes Margio hate his father and want to put an end to his father. And with the belief of the white tiger inside Margio's body, Margio intends to murder. All of Margio's experience when he was child, makes Margio have a deviant personality that lead into criminality such as killing, stealing and consuming alcohol.

Margio's deviant personality can be explained by the cause of suggestion and childhood trauma, also can be seen from coping strategies. In the story, Margio portrays some coping strategies to cope with his problems. They are fantasy, denial, suppression, repression, and displacement. The coping strategies fantasy is reflected in the white tiger figure that is believed by Margio emerged in his body and kills Anwar Sadat. Margio utilizes denial to distract himself from the painful reality he must face by consuming and drinking alcohol. Margio also uses coping strategies suppression that he always likes to leave his home to avoid his abusive father. Furthermore, Margio portrayed repression by acting tough and strong in front of his father. Last but not least, Margio vents his rage by hunting boar, stealing, and admitting to murder as displacement coping mechanisms.

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