

**POETIC EXISTENCE: WRITING POETRY AS THE MANIFESTATION OF  
FREUDIAN'S THE RETURN OF THE REPRESSED  
IN MAGDALENA ZURAWSKI'S *THE BRUISE***

Dia Anggraini<sup>1</sup>, Delvi Wahyuni<sup>2</sup>  
Program Studi Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris  
FBS Universitas Negeri Padang  
email: [ghe\\_ya@yahoo.com](mailto:ghe_ya@yahoo.com)

**Abstrak**

Setiap individu memiliki masa lalu yang buruk dalam hidupnya. Sebagian individu mampu belajar dan merubah masa lalu yang buruk untuk mendapatkan kehidupan yang lebih baik di masa depan. Di sisi lain, sebagian individu menyimpan masa lalu yang buruk tersebut seperti represi terhadap suatu masalah yang tidak terselesaikan. Novel *The Bruise* (2008) yang di tulis oleh Magdalena Zurawski menunjukkan bagaimana represi yang di alami oleh protagonis muncul kembali di masa tertentu. Penganalisaan dalam novel ini berdasarkan *text-based interpretation*. Protagonis dalam novel ini memperlihatkan masalah yang tidak terselesaikan dengan ibunya menjadi penyebab utama represi dalam hidupnya. Masalahnya tidak terselesaikan oleh protagonis dengan ibunya memberikan dampak terhadap karakter lain. karakter pertama yaitu dari saudara perempuan, protagonis menolak untuk berinteraksi dengan saudara perempuannya. karakter kedua yaitu dari lingkungannya, protagonis memilih menjadi siswa yang pendiam karena ada kecemasan dalam dirinya. Kemudian, setting dapat terlihat ketika terjadi penolakan oleh ibu terhadap status protagonist sebagai seorang anak laki-laki serta perlakuannya terhadap lingkungan. Di sisi lain, setting yang mendukung membuat protagonist mencari jalan lain agar dirinya di anggap yaitu melalui menulis puisi sebagai bentuk pertahanan dirinya. Selain itu, penganalisaan unsur-unsur sastra tersebut juga dikaitkan dengan konsep *Repression* oleh Sigmund Freud yang mengemukakan bahwa *repression* adalah salah satu pertahanan diri individu untuk menolak masalah dari alam sadar manusia. Kemudian, pembahasan ini di lanjutkan dengan konsep dari Sigmund Freud *the Return of the Repressed* yaitu sebuah situasi dimana apa yang di tekan akan muncul kembali dalam bentuk lain. Penganalisaan novel yang berjudul *The Bruise* (2008) menunjukkan apa yang di tekan oleh individu terhadap suatu masalah yang tidak terselesaikan muncul kembali dalam bentuk puisi

Kata Kunci: Protagonist, Repression, the Return of the Repressed, Puisi

---

<sup>1</sup> The writer, graduated at English Department, FBS UNP in September 2013

<sup>2</sup> Supervisor, a lecturer at English Department, FBS UNP

## **A. Introduction**

Each human has their own bad experiences in their life. Some people will learn from his or her bad experiences to be better in the future. In contrast, bad experiences will make it difficult for people to survive. One example of bad experiences is unresolved conflict. According to Meriam Webster Dictionary Online (2013) states that conflict is a controversy of actions, ideas, desires, or will that result in people struggling to deal with it. It means that, the conflict may be physical, emotional, mental or moral. Henderson (2009) states that conflict are opposite opinion between the main character, between that character and some force in nature, or between that character and another (p.11). In other words, there is different idea between one to another. Then, no matter how bad one wants to avoid the problem they are facts of life that must be deal with.

There are some people try to deal with it or try to find the solution. In contrast, there are some people who are unable to resolve the conflict for several reasons. For example, people keep the problem to prevent the conflict from increasing their own selves. Second, people keep the problem to prevent the conflict from increasing with other people. Third, People keep the conflict as mechanism of defending themselves. Mechanism to do is through repression. Freud in Erdelyie (2006) states that the essence of repression lies simply in function of rejecting and keeping something out of consciousness (p.500). In this situation, it is very important to know that people will just repress the conflict as a mechanism of defending herself over anxiety which will keep the conflict unresolved. Then, there is no guarantee that the conflict passes. One day, what people repress will appear into another shape. Freud in Felluga (2013) states it called the return of the repressed which is the process whereby repressed elements, preserved in the unconscious, to re-appear, in the unconscious or behavior, in shape of secondary or more recognizable (p.141). One example of the returned of the Repressed is through writing poetry. People writes poem as a way to express their emotional, feeling or everything about their life.

People are unable to resolve their conflict. They find a way as mechanism of defending self. Related to this case also discuss in literature. It is narrated in the novel entitled *The Bruise* (2009) by Magdalena Zurawski. It is very important to the writer to explain the idea of it since the protagonist shows the characteristic the return of the repressed bases on Freudian concept.

Magdalena zurawski was born in 1972 to polish immigrant in New Jersey, where she attended Catholics School for twelve years before escaping north to providence, Rhode Island to study literature class at Brown. Currently, she lives in Durham, North Carolina.

*The Bruise* (2008) is her first book. It is winner of the Ronald Suckenic Prize for innovative Fiction and the 2009 Lambda award for lesbian debut fiction.

Her genres are literature and fiction. She is influenced by Marcel Proust, Immanuel Kant, Gertrude Stein, Thomas Bernhard, Jack Spicer, Clark Coolidge, Bruce Springsteen and Eileen Myle.

*The Bruise* (2008) a novel written by Magdalena Zuraswki showcases Freudian the return of the represses. The return of the represses means the process whereby repressed elements, preserved in the unconscious, tend to re appear, in unconscious or in behavior, in shape of secondary or more unrecognizable. It is done by the protagonist. He is a literature student in college who gets repressed in his life.

Unresolved conflict as the trigger of the protagonist's repression with his mother. There is a rejection of his mother to his gender. The protagonist keeps the problem by himself without finding the solution with some else around him. The result of this is seldom listening to other member of family. One members of family that he ignores is her sister. He rejects the idea of his sister about himself. The protagonist is being private person in school. He ignores friends in school.

The status of the protagonist as literature student helps him to express his repression through his writing poetry. In other words, writing poetry is the manifestation of the return of the repressed. The protagonist feels as a real person when he writes a poem. Poetry is a way for him as a mechanism to defend himself.

The analysis about this novel which is focuses on The Writing as The Manifestation of Freudian Concept's The return of The Repressed. There are several studies in journal that can give contribution and inspiration in analyzing this novel.

The first studies which gives contribution to this analysis written by Erin McNight (2008) entitled *The Bruise* of Magdalena Zuraswki. In this analysis, McNight focuses on the character in the novel. He explains about the trauma in past time that the character gets. Then, there are concept of loneliness and isolation of the character through his life. After that, he explains that the poem writes by the character is a way of him to out of his problem. In other words, he mentions that the imagination of the character is a way of him to be a person in life.

The second study which gives contribution to this analysis is written by Simon Boag (2006) entitled *Freudian Repression, the Common View, and Pathological Science*. This analysis concerns primarily with Freudian repression, the general claim to be extracted from this is that as psychoanalysis's, the conceptual ground work for attempting to discuss and test theories cannot be neglected. Then, Boag also discusses The Return of The repression as the seduction hypothesis and diphase Repression.

Another study that give contributions in this analysis is written by Matthew Hugh Erdelyi (2006) entitled *The Return of the Repressed*. In this analysis, Mathew influences by Simon Boag. He says that repression has become an empirical fact that is at once obvious and problematic. He brings the idea of the

return of the repressed as a way to defense mechanism from unsolved conflict. Then, the repression is the widest sense of the defense mechanism itself.

The two analysis above become the references of this study to evoke the idea of Freudian's The Return of The Repressed. However, this study focuses on keeping the originality of thought or ideas through the Writing Poetry as the Manifestation of Freudian's The Return of The Repression. In other words, this study concerns only how writing poetry as the way to out from the repression.

## **B. Methodology**

The analysis of this novel is done through text based interpretation. In this respect, it is mandatory to consider the formal element of the text. Considering the element of the text; character is the most important aspect to be analyzed. For that reason, plot and setting becomes an inseparable part of the analysis.

As has been suggested above, by using Freudian concept, the writer will explain two stages to analysis the concept. Firstly, the writer will find what the unresolved conflict which lead to Freudian concept. Secondly, the writer will find the manifestation of unresolved conflict.

## **C. Analysis**

*The Bruise* (2008) a novel written by Magdalena Zurawski showcases the return of the repressed. The bruise is the bad experiences of the protagonist in the past time. Thus, the Bruise means the problem of the protagonist is unsolved. The protagonist keeps the problem by himself without find the solution with some else around him. Furthermore, the unsolved problem becomes repression in his life.

In this analysis, the writer will tract down conflicts faced by the protagonist to his repressed. In this case, our narrator is the protagonist itself. In this process, the reason of his repression will be analyze. For this reason, it is important to consider the conflict from the protagonist's character or personality. To do this, the writer will analyze his interaction and relationship with people around him. In this situation, it is necessary to know that the protagonist solves the problem or just represses the conflict as the mechanism of defending self over the anxiety which keeps the conflict unresolved. Finally, the writer will show how the repressed unresolved conflicts re-appear in turn of what Freud called the return of the repressed.

### **1.1 Unresolved Conflict with Family**

Family is the first root of character building. In family people learn how to interact with other people other than oneself. First, people will learn how to interact with mother, father, son or daughter. Second, people will learn how to interact with society. A good communication will lead people to have good character. One example is communication to solve problem between mother and son. In contrast, less communication will make it difficult for people to interact with society. In this analysis, setting of family is the first reason of the protagonist to unsolve his conflict. It can be seen from his relation with his mother. His

mother does not listen to his idea or opinion. In other words, there is rejection from his mother. It can be seen from the quotation below.

I walked to my mother and I stood in front of her. I wasn't like other boy. I was floating and I said *I'm sorry mother but I'm not like other boys* and she said *of course you're a girl* and then I saw the codeine and the cough syrup go in the trash and I saw my mother sit down at the table and drink her tea and smile and everything I saw showed me that nothing had changed even though I had said something to my mother after taking the cough medicine. But everything had changed because the memory stayed and the mother kept the memory when she looked at her girl who was not like other boys. She knew that if she laid a hand on her. She knew if she laid a hand on her that her hand would go right through her girl because she wasn't really there anymore. Her girl wasn't there anymore so the mother didn't hug her and she didn't hit her. It would go right through her. She was not there. So the mother kept her boy but looked other way (p.102)

The statement above shows that the protagonist describes his family background. As we know that family consists of father, mother, son or daughter. Mother functions to care her children. In other words, mother should have responsible to raise her children properly. In this case, the mother keeps acting her son as a girl. "*So, the mother kept her boy but looked other way*" indicates that the protagonist's mom rejection his own gender. There is something wrong opinion about who he is. Furthermore, he wants to complain but its fail. Then, the protagonist keeps the problem by himself to avoid the problem will increase. He chooses to repress rather than find the solution. So, the repression is because of his unsolved conflict with his mother.

His mother forces him to be other person. It means that his mother does not care about his life. The mother keeps her emotion says him as a girl. In this conflict, the character does not have an ability to convince what he supposed to be. It means that the protagonist fear that it will increase the conflict. Then, the internal conflict also will happen in himself. He cannot make a deal with himself about the problem that he has with his mother. Furthermore, the conflict between him and his mother which is unsolved will cause toward others in his environment. The rejection of his mother about his gender makes him seldom communicate with other.

It seems that his relation with his sister also a conflicting one. The action of his mother makes him fear to interact with other. He fears to do not listen by other. The protagonist chooses to ignore his sister. It can be seen from the quotation below.

And I thought if my sister was trying to tell me something I should make sure her words would not disappear and they didn't. when I wrote them down they looked like this: *I want to stop,*

*keeping my body, settled, like a tea cup in a dust store. and if the words on the page—if the words on the page hadn't broken into lines like a poem I would have thought the words were just a message. But even though it was a message because there was wanting in the lines and I couldn't ignore that my sister spook was wanting something from me even though there was something in the words that made them pretty like a poem and therefore easy to ignore because no one listens to poetry (p.63)*

It can be seen from what the protagonist says *Not disappear and they didn't*, it indicates that the communication between sister and brother is not good. The protagonist tries to ignore speaking with his sister. In other words, the protagonist is antipathy with his sister. As we know that communication is key for human to solve problem. By communicate, people will know their fault. In contrast, the character does not try to find an alternative to solve his problem. The protagonist seems to enjoy keeping by himself. Furthermore, this condition can be related with his previous relation with his mother who believes him as a girl rather boy. Furthermore, *even though there was something in the words that made them pretty like a poem and therefore easy to ignore because no one listens to poetry* this statement is trying to explain that his sister want to talk with him but he ignores to listen. It seems that the foundation of his family is broken. In his idea, he listens to his sister means it will increase problem. So, that why he chooses to neglect. Furthermore, the conflict of him between his mother and his sister will increase his repressed toward his life.

## **1.2 Unresolved Conflict with Society**

The protagonist does not only ignore her sister but also his environment such as his class mate and his love life. This attempt can be seen from the following quotation.

I know that the bruise came to me because I was lonely and L-I was someone who could help stop me from being lonely. And though that I hated more than my friends looking at me during lunch to see how my bruise was doing when I looked at L-I hoped she would look at me and really see the bruise and the way she looked at me made me hope that she could really see me and see the bruise and the story of my imagination and this would help me finally become a real person (p56)

From the quotation above is shown that result of his bruise is being a loner. He being a loner means there is no attention from people close to him such as father or mother as his parents. As has been mention above, the reason of him being a loner is his mother who never listens to him. In this condition, the character starts to find another person to listen him. A person to listen to his truly condition. It can be seen from what the protagonist says *and this would help me finally become a real person* indicates repressed that he feels in his life. He wants to be a real person. In another words, he wants to be a real boy not a girl like what his mother mentions. It is supported by the statement *“that I hated more than my friends looking at me during lunch”* it means that in school he does not have friends. Moreover, the character does not interact with other

students. Students just looked at him not asking him. Furthermore, it indicates that other student feel strength with his character during school day such as being private. It means the protagonist does not give space to other to talk with him. He keeps everything by his own without finds the solution.

Bad communication with his mother will affect to his personality. In other words, it's the biggest unresolved conflict in his life which is influence to his relation with other. He becomes introvert student. It can be seen from the following quotation.

Despite this however, there were certain things I would not tell my friends because I was a very private and I wanted to remain private. I want to protect my imagination because my imagination was the mean by which I made myself into a writer and there was nothing more important to me than being a writer (p.26)

10

From the quotation above shows the protagonist becomes private person. A bad experience with his mother makes him a private person. Thus, he does not have a brave to speak with class mate or some else around his environment. Then, he keeps the story of his life including what he represses by himself such as reason his mother called her a girl. He refuses to interact with other and being a loner in his study. Then, the protagonist thinks that by being a writer he will be a real person. In writing, he exposes who really he is in life. He feels free to write everything about his feeling by using the diction.

The idea of private person is support by following quotation below

I thought that the trees were so black that they showed me the sky was blue even at night and even this thought helped me believe that nothing changed at school because it was always the same thought and even what I thought proved to me that nothing changed because my thoughts showed me that the sky even when it seemed to darken was still blue and would always be blue no matter what color I thought it was and the trees were there not to remind me of a time when the sky had been a different color but to remind me that even now with the sun down nothing was different: the sky was blue (95)

School is place of student to learn, to increase knowledge and to get friends. From the statement above is shown that there is no conversation between him and with other student. There is no change in his life after go to school in relation with other people. Furthermore, he uses word "*blue*" for the sky at night. As we know that, sky at night is dark. In another word means sky in day is light. In this case, the protagonist says that it is blue. Blue means sadness. Thus, it relates with his condition who is private person. There is no color in his life rather that sad. Furthermore, the protagonist repeats word blue for many times. It indicates that the sadness in his life is deeps.

The relation of the protagonist and his love life is also bad. It can be seen through the quotation below.

It took me several months after L-stopped talking to me to understand and what about the bruise made it impossible for her to see me anymore but soon enough I realized that that was the problem: the bruise made it impossible for L-to see me and she couldn't be with me anymore (p.153)

From the quotation above is shown that the protagonist chooses to ignore the problem rather than to solve. A month is a long period to solve a conflict with our lover. As a man, he does not have principle in his life. Furthermore, the character realizes reasons of his lover leave him is his bruise. After that, the protagonist does not try said to his lover what made the bruise in his life. Bruise in here means his unsolved conflict with his mother, sister and his class mate. In contrast, he keeps by him and represses. Communication is a better way to express what he feels but he does not do it.

Furthermore, It can be seen from what the protagonist says *the bruise made it impossible for L to see me and she couldn't be with me anymore* indicates that the bruise in here is his bad relation with his mother. He fails to have a good communication with people whether with his mother, his sister or even his classmate. Furthermore, it indicates that logically, no one will stand for his acts. A girl needs affection, care, romance and everything from her boyfriend. In this case, the protagonist seems ignore this aspect. He seems busy with his bruise or his own problem. So, it is clear that his bad act is reason for someone to leave him to be close friend in life. In other words, she refuses to be someone important in his life.

### **1.3 Writing Poetry as the Manifestation of Freudian the Return of the Repressed**

There is no guarantee for people to heal their repressed totally. Some people try to find a place to defense. The repressed will appear into another shape such as by painting, reading or writing. Based on Freudian concepts, defense mechanism use by the protagonist called the return of the repressed. In analysis, the protagonist manifests of the repressed into the poem that he writes. He tells about what he has been repressed by playing the diction and tone in the poem.

Poem is a piece of writing that partakes of the nature of both speech and song, and that is usually rhythmical and metaphorical. People can explore what they feels by write anything. Thus, it can heal or re-appear something happen in previous time called memory. In analysis, the protagonist as literature student tries to write a poem as a strategy to explore what he represses. It shows by following the quotation above

I knew that it was easy to write anything that you imagined with words because words could say anything especially when a person just started typing with a small idea and let the words take over the idea(p162)



From the quotation above shows that, he uses his ability as literature student to write poem. The protagonist fails to have good relation with other. Thus, in this case, he tries to say what he feels by writing poem. The protagonist feels write anything he feels is easy rather than to tell with other person. Furthermore, he gets trust about himself in writing. There is satisfying in his mind while he is typing word by word to explore what he represses.

A result of what he represses in his life is shows in his poem. In another word, what he repressed is re-appear again in his life into poem that he writes. The protagonist make a poem related to his feeling to mother, sister, lover, and classmate in one poem

Lips like roses  
Like sugar.  
Like daffodils or daisies or blue phlox.  
Like roses of the world that lie unfurled.  
Lips like petunias or azaleas or antelopes or myrtle. 5  
Lips sweeter than Victorian box.  
Softer than vermilion dusk or velvet spray. L—'s sweet lips.  
The boring lips of boring poems.  
No. No boring lips for L—. 10  
Lips like a river.  
Like a river where at the bottom there's a rose and in the rose there's  
another river and in that river another rose.  
Yes. Those lips.  
Lips like a bed of cotton and shadow where the flesh is grass where  
the flesh is not an empty house. 15  
Lips like wet river.  
Yes. Like wet river.  
But not like coral or caterpillars or rotting logs or sleeping fish.  
And not like curtains or luggage or shoes slick with algae.  
No seaweed lips or lobster lips. 20  
No lips smacking like a banker's.  
No butterfly or bellybutton or broken sidewalk lips.  
No lips like Styrofoam or industry.  
Or lips like a zipper holding back sparrows.  
But lips like a river with a wound in it. 25  
A wound so deep it's filled with more river.  
A river so deep that the wound is nothing but river.  
Lips like shadows along a wounded river.(p135)

From his poem, the writer will analyzes meaning by the element of poem that speaker uses such as figurative language and tone. The speaker uses parable to evoke his feeling. First, the figurative language he uses simile. The protagonist compares lips like some kind of flower.

Lips like roses

Like sugar.  
Like daffodils or daisies or blue phlox.  
Like roses of the world that lie unfurled.  
Lips like petunias or azaleas or antelopes or myrtle.

5

In his poem, the speaker almost repeats word lips to deliver his idea in every line. Lip is mediator for people to produce voice. Thus, Human needs voice to speak and to interact with some else. In case, the speaker tries to evoke in his words in sweet moment such as "*lips like roses*". As we know that, some people believe that rose is a symbol of some very powerful energy. It depends on the color of the rose. Red rose means power to survive. Moreover, white rose means purity of heart between mom and son. Furthermore, in second line, the speaker states that "*Lips like sugar*". It relates with his previous word about rose to symbolize sweet moment. Sweet moment like happy with family or friend. In another words, the speaker says that lips like daffodil. In some country, a daffodil is symbolic of a new beginning in our life. It represents happiness and reformation whether it is in a new aspiration of bettering our self or a new motivation to survive in life. Moreover, when it appears wilted it means we have gained knowledge which gave us a sense of maturity and feeling of being older and more enlightened.

The speaker delivers good thought in the first to third lines. There is changing of tone in the fourth line. The speaker states that like roses of the world that lie unfurled. It seems that he is arguing about the meaning of the power of roses itself. Thus, he does not believe rose as a symbol of happiness. In another word, he uses rose to show what he represses in his life like what the writer mention in previous analysis. The speaker has bad experience with three categories of people; bad experience with his family, bad experience with close friend and bad experience with his class mate.

The speaker seems confuse about his life in the next line. In the fifth lines, he repeats flower. He states that "*Lips like petunias or azaleas or antelopes or myrtle*". Three of flower has different meaning. First, petunias are pretty plant. In contrast, resentment is one meaning, along with anger. It means, the speaker tries to evoke his anger toward his life. He anger of being some else like his mother mention before. His mother takes him as a girl. He wants to move on. In contrast, he does not know to survive more than just expresses it into words. Then, the speaker comes again with another type of flower is called azalea. As the writer knows that azalea is a beautiful. This flower stands for love. It represents softness. In another word, this flower means of taking care of our self and partner. Related to this analysis, the speaker does not how to protect him and other. It is because of his past time experience with his family which is not good. The last not at least, the speaker says that lips like myrtle. So, kind of flower is changing in next line. In previous describe about his anger and happiness, in this line his express about the deep sadness or problem that he got by using word "myrtle". Myrtle is not a flower. It is kind of scrub. It means that the speaker tries to explain what he truly

represses before in his life. Furthermore, there is obstacle in the process of his life such as wrong way of his mother to teach him as a girl.

In the first stanza, the speaker use kind of flower to express what he represses. In the next stanza, the speaker use river as equality.

Lips like a river. 10  
Like a river where at the bottom there's a rose and in the rose there's another river and in that river another rose.  
Yes. Those lips.  
Lips like a bed of cotton and shadow where the flesh is grass where the flesh is not an empty house. 15  
Lips like wet river.  
Yes. Like wet river.

River is where the water flows. River is small rather than lake or ocean. It symbolize that the speaker does not have enough brave to speak. What writer means the speaker tries in small scale. There is no challenge that he get in his life. He keeps silent without speaking with another to solve his problem whether about himself or his relation with society. He represses by his own. Furthermore, words are the only way for him to express what the result of the represses is. The idea of the previous statement supports by the next stanza

Yes. Like wet river.  
But not like coral or caterpillars or rotting logs or sleeping fish.  
And not like curtains or luggage or shoes slick with algae.  
No seaweed lips or lobster lips. 20

The speaker mentions that it's not like coral. Coral is kind of stone. It is strong. In this case, the speaker doesn't want to be like that. He chooses river. A river is small place to live. There is no space to tries something news. It relates to his past time. A river is a place for him to be private. In contrast, coral is stay in ocean. In another words, ocean in here means environment around him such as school.

The reason of what the speaker represses is re-appear is shown in the last stanza.

Or lips like a zipper holding bac 17  
But lips like a river with a woun 25  
A wound so deep it's filled with  
A river so deep that the wound i t river.  
Lips like shadows along a wounded river.(p135)

The stanza above exposes what he repress re-emerge. It says *Or lips like a zipper holding back sparrows*. Zipper uses for clothe. It uses for up or down our clothes. It means that while the speaker tries to keep what he represses. It will return again in another time because of some reason such as the same situation like he got

before. The represses appear in another shape. In this case what he represses is appear into a poem that he writes. Everything that he repressed expressed in the diction of he uses.

The character also makes poem toward his family to re-appear what he has been repressed. It can be seen from the poem above.

I want to stop  
Keeping my body  
Settled  
Like a tea cup  
In a dust store.(p.64)

5

From the poem can be analyze that the speaker does not have enough power to struggle. It says “*I want to stop keeping my body*”, it indicates that he is tiring on the condition around him, especially his family environment. Furthermore, it is also support the idea before which is said that his mother does not do her job well as a mother. The speaker seems loses an idea to move on. As a student in literature, the speaker should be smart to solve personal problem. It is because of in literature class he learns how to analyze a problem and solve. In this case he does not apply it in his own problem. After that, it says “*like a tea cup*” in the third line. The tone of the speaker in here seems sad. He is sad of his life. Then, as we know that, people who drink a cup of tea just in certain condition such as in the morning while the air is cooling. It means that the speaker only appear or exist in certain time to show who he is such as by writing. He feels numb to talk with other and he is enjoying by writing a poem. He writes a poem to show who really he is to other. He wants to listen but does not have an ability to show it. In other words, the speaker feels anxiety to reject by some else like 18 other act to him. Then, the speaker does not use the words “mineral water. It means that we can drink mineral water in the morning or even at night. Related to the speaker repressed, it means that it is not easy to him sharing with other. He chooses another way to defense himself from the situation outside.

#### **D. Conclusion**

*The Bruise* (2008) a novel written by Magdalena Zurawski showcases the return of the repressed. The title “The Bruise” means the problem of the protagonist is unsolved. The protagonist keeps the problem by himself without find the solution with some else around him. Furthermore, the unsolved problem becomes repression in his life. He is a literature student who brings his “bruise” or his repression into his adult life. It can be seen from two aspects: unsolved conflict as a trigger of the protagonist’s repression with his mother and writing poetry as the manifestation of Freudian the return of the repressed.

Unsolved conflict as the trigger of the protagonist's repression with his mother. The conflict with his mother is the only reason of his repression. There is a rejection of his mother about his truly gender. His mother keeps act him as girl. The protagonist keeps the problem by himself without find the solution of his problem. The result of his repression with his mother is causing him being a private person. The protagonist is seldom listening to member of family like her sister. He rejects the idea of his sister about himself. Then, he ignores friends in school.

The status of the character as literature student helps him to express his repression through his writing poetry. In other words, writing poetry is the manifestation of the return of the repressed. The protagonist feels as a real person in writing a poem. Poetry is a way to him as mechanism of defending self.

Briefly, it can be seen that, there are some mechanism of defending self. One example is repression. Then, what people repress will appear into another shape. In this case Freudian called the return of the repressed.

**Note:** This article is written based on the Dia Anggraini's paper under the supervision of Delvi Wahyuni, S.S, M.A

## **E. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Barry, peter. 2002. *Beginning Theory An Introduction to literary and cultural theory*. New York. Manchester University Press

Bertens,Hans. 2001. *Literary Theory the Basic*. Netherlands. University of Utrecht.

Boag, Simon. 2006. *Freudian Re 20 the common View, and Pathological Science*. *Journal of Review of General Psychology*. Vol 10, no 1, page 74-84. Macquarie University. Copy right by American Psychology Association

Eagleton, Terry.2005. *Literary Theory an Introduction*, second edition.

Ellman,Maud.1991. *Psychoanalytic Literary Criticism*. Cambridge University Press.

Erderlyi, Matthew (2006). *The Unified theory of Repression*. Journal of Department of Psychology. Cambridge University. New York.

Guerin. 2005. *A handbook of Critical approaches to Literature fifth Edition*. New York. Oxford University Press.

Henderson, Gloria, 2009. *Literature and Ourselves*, sixth edition. Pearson Education. New York

McNight, Erin (2008). *The Bruise of Magdalena*. Rebecca silver design. Northwestern University Press.

- Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. 2013. *conflict*. Retrieved June 17<sup>th</sup> 2013.  
<<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/bread>>
- Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. 2013. *unconscious*. Retrieved June 10<sup>th</sup> 2013.  
<<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/bread>>
- Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. 2013. *petunia*. Retrieved June 10<sup>th</sup> 2013.  
<<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/bread>>
- Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. 2013. *rose*. Retrieved June 10<sup>th</sup> 2013.  
<<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/bread>>
- Rivkin. 2004. *Literary Theory: An Anthology, Second Edition*.  
Australia. Blackwell Publishing.