

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Psychopathy is one of literary topics in which still interest the writers because it discusses character's psychological disorder. Psychopathy is a personality type describing individuals who demonstrate a pronounced lack of guilt, remorse, and empathic concern for others (Glenn, A.L., Kurzban, R., & Raine. A. 2011). Term psychopathy refers to a personality disorder that includes a cluster of interpersonal, affective, lifestyle, and antisocial traits and behaviors (U.S. Department of Justice, 2012). The word psychopath means mental illness. Psyche means mind and pathos means disease (Hare, 1993 in Smedley thesis, 2015) contrary to the literal meaning of the word, psychopaths are not mentally ill. They do not experience the qualities categorized in other mental disorders, such as delusions or hallucinations. They know what they are doing, and their actions result from choices they freely made. (Babiak et al, 2012). From the explanation above psychopathy can be categorized as 'normal' with their own rational thinking and consistency of their own façade that they make, to hide their true identity to fulfill their desires.

There are many literary works that have psychological aspect and Mr. Perfect is one of them. Mr. Perfect was created by Linda Howard in 2000. In the novel, there is a character named Corin but known as Leah Street. Roberta Schultz one of the reviewers of Mr. Perfect novel said the main character named Jaine and three of her

friends are being stalked by a *psychopath* in the story which known as Corin because of the list they made up for fun. In the beginning of the story, no one knows what kind of person Leah Street or Corin actually was, and she hides her previous life that not many people know about her actual personality. Leah Street was quite an attractive woman, but she had gone to the asylum after killing her own mother. She killed her mother in her teenager, instead of going to jail she put into asylum instead because she was diagnosed to have a psychotic personality. According to Hare psychotic is a mental illness which the person who suffered this kind of personality would have hallucination and delusion. In the asylum, during the treatment there she tried to make herself more feminine and named herself as Leah Street. After she went out from asylum she then worked in one of Technology Company in Human Resource Department, for years. Until the problem began when Jaine and her three friends make the lists and named it as *Mr. Perfect* lists, that triggered her anger. Corin or Leah Street was raised as a boy, in her childhood, she did something that usually would not be done by a child at her age, for example, she killed an animal that being petted in her school, and not feeling guilty at all. The writer assumed that the cause of Corin's action was because of her mother that was very violent in raising her.

Along the story Corin tried to kill them who made the list, she killed one of them brutally and was not feeling guilty at all. From the narration in the story, tells about Corin delusions that she was a person that create by her mother to be the perfect man, and what is made by the main character and three of her friends seems like awaken her craziness side which reminded her to her abusive mother. Corin did not feel

hesitate even guilty at all to kill them, she tried to torture them at first before went to kill.

This novel is one of New York Times bestselling novel that has many good reviews from the readers. This novel also includes as one of the romantic suspense novels which makes this novel become more interesting to read. One of the characters in the novel mentioned as a person that faced a psychological issue, because her actions that can't be categorized as a normal person that hold their norm, in the society. The author of the novel put this kind of problem to make the novel to be interesting to read, which makes this novel also amaze the reader in reading the romance novel itself. Therefore, the writer interested to analyze the character by using the approach and theory that related to the topic discussion which is a psychological approach and the overview of psychopathy.

Psychopathy act as if they normal but in fact, they are not. Psychopaths do not care about the norms, laws, or culture. In other words, psychopath is a person who does not have any concern for the feelings of others and any sense in social life, since they violate the rules, norms in society. Though their behavior is very violent and destructive there is no sign that shows mental illness. They do not have a hallucination or hear voices, and they do not feel anxious, confuse or driven by overwhelming compulsion (Kiehl, 2010).

It is not surprising that psychopaths also overrepresented in jails, studies indicate that almost 25 percent of prisoners meet diagnostic criteria for a psychopath. In any case,

the researcher also suggests that a sizable number of psychopaths may walk among us in everyday life. Most psychopaths are not violent, and most violent individuals are not psychopaths (Lilienfeld, 2007)

According to Verstappen in his book, *The Defense Against Psychopath*, he stated that most people think of psychopath as a rare creature found only in the lowest levels of society. However, he also said that probability we might end up meet a psychopath in a competitive environment. As what seen in the novel that Corin lives among the society that holds their norm as the normal civilian, while she is actually not. Therefore, this novel interests the writer to analyze the psychological issue that reflected in the novel, and the statement from Verstappen that convince the writer to investigate more about psychopathy that reflects in Mr. Perfect novel.

1.2 Research Question

What are the characteristics and the causes of psychopathy as seen in Linda Howard's *Mr. Perfect* novel?

1.3 Research Objective

To reveal the characteristics and the causes of psychopathy as seen in Corin's action and behavior in *Mr. Perfect* novel

1.4 Uses of The Study

1.4.1 Theoretical Uses

This research is expected to improve our knowledge about psychopath analysis on the literary work such as discussion about the characteristics and the causes of psychopathy especially in *Mr. Perfect* novel. This research not only to support and enrich the knowledge of the readers but also will be useful for the readers who feel interested in analyzing the same topic or object or as additional references to do their assignment.

1.4.2 Practical Uses

Practically, the writer hopes this research enrich the knowledge and better understanding for next researchers who have the interests in analyzing the psychoanalysis study of literary work especially about psychopath analysis of *Mr. Perfect* novel by Linda Howard

1.5 The Scope of Study

In order to make an effective analysis, the writer limits the idea only focus on the characteristics of psychopathy by using the theory of psychopathy which borrowed from Psychopathy Checklist (PCI) besides the writer also intend to analyze the causes of psychopathy of Corin's character that only reflected in *Mr. Perfect* novel by Linda Howard.