

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Literature is known as a collection of literary genres and texts, and each of these texts include certain characters like living beings (İsaoğlu, 2015). There are three common forms of literature; narration, poetry and drama. Each of them tells different situation, different stories and has its own characters and characterizations.

Psychology is regarded as an inseparable part of literature. In this research, the writer is going to discuss about the main character in *Orphan* movie which is considered as psychopath. According to Hare (1993: 11),

Psychopath as social predators who charm, manipulate, and ruthlessly plow their way through life, shattered expectations, and empty wallets. Also, the brains of psychopaths have been found to have weak connections among the components of the brain's emotional systems.

Based on the explanation above, it can be said that psychopath is a person who lack of social connection and they can become one of the social predators that can harm others although from outside they just like normal people who are charming and manipulating. Fictional psychopathic characters first appeared in European literature in the fourteenth century as a negative example of Renaissance humanism (Barry, 2002). Fictional portrayals of psychopaths are some of the most notorious in film and literature but may only vaguely or partly relate to the concept of psychopathy. Such characters are often portrayed in an exaggerated fashion and

typically in the role of a villain or antihero, where the general characteristic of a psychopath are useful to facilitate conflict and danger.

There are some movies with a psychopath character inside the story. One of them is *Orphan* film (2009) directed by Jaume Collet-Serra. The movie describes a female main character who is psychopath, her name is Esther. The plot centers on a couple Kate (Esther's adoptive mother) and John (Esther's adoptive father) who, after the death of their unborn child, adopt a mysterious 9-year-old Russian girl, Esther, from the local orphanage.

Kate becomes suspicious when Esther expresses far more knowledge of sex than expected of a child her age. When Esther seriously injured another girl at a local park, Kate believed it was just an accident but becomes alarmed when Nun Abigail, the head of the orphanage, visited with the warning that bad things frequently happen in Esther's vicinity. Esther overheard this and uses Max as a distraction so that she can kill Nun Abigail with hammer, which she hid in the children's tree house.

Kate convinced that something is wrong with Esther but John did not believe in her. Kate then bought wine which she refrains from drinking. The next day Esther caused Kate's car to roll into on-coming traffic with Max inside. Esther point out the wine to John, who told Kate to go to rehab or he would leave with the kids. Kate found Esther's hidden Bible and discovers that it came from the Saarne Institute in Estonia. This place is actually a mental hospital where Esther had ever hospitalized there before she was adopted by Kate and John.

The psychological problems of Esther have a great influence toward the unity of the story with her mental illness. Therefore, the writer considers that the study about psychoanalysis is interesting to be discussed since by knowing the characteristics of psychopathic, the writer could understand more about the psychological disorder and able to share knowledge for readers.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study, the writer formulates research questions as follow:

1. What are the characteristics of Esther as a psychopath in *Orphan* movie?
2. What are the factor that caused Esther turn into psychopath as seen in *Orphan* movie?

1.3 Research Objectives

Regarding to the research questions, the objective of this research is to understand the psychopath characteristics and the factors that cause Esther psychopath as seen in *Orphan* movie.

1.4 The Use of Study

By presenting this research, the writer hopes that it will give some benefit as follows:

1.4.1 Theoretical

The study is expected to enrich the readers' knowledge, especially in the psychoanalysis study. Also, the writer hopes that this research is able to be one of

the references for the next researchers who are going to discuss the similar topic of psychoanalysis study.

1.4.2 Practical

Practically, the writer hopes that this study is able to provide the information for the readers about the characteristics of psychopathic person. Also, this research hopefully can give knowledge of how to understand mental disorder.

1.5 Scope of Research

There are so many elements that can be analyzed from the movie, however, the writer focuses and limits the research on psychology in the characteristics of Esther character in *Orphan* movie which is viewed from abnormal psychology theory of psychopath and to reveal the factors that cause Esther's psychopathic.