CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Previous Study

Previous study used to provide example of how to analyze and conduct a research with a good result. It also has function to regard new research finding. Hence, the writer has review three previous studies which become the writer’s consideration to conduct this study. However, there are also difference and similarity from the previous studies and this recent research.

The first previous study is a journal entitled Reading the Body of BretEaston Ellis’s American Psycho (1991) by Roche (2009). The objective of this research is to explain about some detail of the story of American Psycho by explaining signs and the signifiers in the novel. In doing the analysis, the researcher applied descriptive qualitative method. As the result of the analysis, it shows that the researcher only shows about the condition of Patrick Bateman as one of yuppies (a young college-educated adult who is employed in a well-paying profession and lives and works near large city) who also as a part-time psychopath. However, the researcher did not mention in detailed about the psychopathic personality, but the researcher only described the points of signs and signifiers for the acts of Patrick, such as his glamorous and fashionable lifestyle. In that case, this previous research gives contribution for the recent research to shows the general description of signs and signifiers in the novel that is about crime, psychopath, branded products and others. Further, similarity of this research and recent research is from the object of research.
where both of them are similarly analyzes the *American Psycho* novel and the difference from this research and recent research is from the objective where in this research, the researcher only described the signs and signifiers that can be found based on act of Patrick Bateman as yuppie and psychopath, while the recent research, the writer is focusing in describing the psychopathic disorder of Patrick Bateman and the causes.

In addition, the writer also reviews another previous study that is also discussed *American Psycho* novel which is from Schaffer (2011) in thesis entitled *Examining The Personality of Patrick Bateman of American Psycho*. In this research, the objective is to describe the personality of Patrick Bateman in the novel of *American Psycho* by using psychoanalytic theory. In doing the analysis, the researcher applied Freud’s theory of three stages of human mind (id, ego and superego). As the result of the research, it shows that Patrick is a person who lack of ego and his superego is based on a deviant morality, while his id is allowed to act as the most wild and dangerous fantasies. In that case, the researcher finds out that Patrick’s id and superego can form an act of sadistic violence and remove the barrier of his own sanity. In other word, the unique conditions of Patrick allow his self-actualization to be explored from a viewpoint that any behavior of his thought can be actualizing. Further, the writer noticed that this previous research helps the recent research because it gives contribution for the writer about the information of the main character’s personality of Patrick Bateman in *American Psycho* novel from the perspective of psychology study. However, there is a similarity of this research and recent research where it can be seen from the object of research where both of them are similarly analyzes the *American Psycho* novel and the difference between this
research with recent research can be seen from the objective where the recent research focuses in describing the psychopathic disorder of Patrick Bateman and the causes.

Further, the writer reviews a previous study that is describing about psychopath personality in a thesis entitled The Psychopath Phenomenon Reflected in Gillian Flynn's Gone Girl Novel (2012): A Psychoanalytic Approach by Wahid (2016). The objective of this research is to describe the characteristic of psychopath in the main character of Gone Girl novel. In doing the analysis, the researcher applied descriptive method and proposed theory from Hare in describing the characteristics of psychopath. As the result, the research shows that there are five characteristics of psychopath from the main character Verstappen in the novel, they are: lack of remorse, lying, compulsive, manipulative and anti-social behavior. Further, the researcher also finds out that the causes of the psychopath in the novel is because of the family problem. Therefore, the writer reviews this previous study since in this research, it shows the information about psychopath’s characteristics and it also provides the information about the psychology of literature. In addition, although the difference from this research and recent research is from the object of research, but the similarity comes from the uses of approach where both of this previous research and recent research is similarly applied psychological approach.

The writer also reviews another previous study that analyzed psychopath personality by Mutmainnah (2017) in a thesis entitled Psychopathic by The Main Character in The Movie “Maniac”. The objective of this study is to describe the characteristics of Frank as the main character and to describe the psychopath personality and the causes that made him into psychopath. In this research, the
The researcher applied descriptive qualitative method and proposed Hare’s theory as well in order to describe the characteristics of psychopath in the main character of the movie. The result of this research shows that there are five characteristics of psychopath found on Frank’s character, they are: highly intelligent, lack of remorse or guilt, impulsive, poor behavior control and lack of empathy. Also, the researcher found out that the causes of Frank’s psychopath is his id which became the dominant than his ego and superego. Further, the writer also needs to review this previous study as one of the references since in this research, it provides the information about characteristics of psychopath that explained by Hare so that the writer can put the information into this recent research. Thus, the similarity form this previous research and recent research can be seen from the theory and approach where both of them are applied psychological approach and proposed Hare’s theory. Meanwhile the difference is from the object of research where in the recent research, the writer analyzes the American Psycho novel.

Finally, the writer reviews a previous study that is discussing psychopath in a thesis entitled Psychopathy in Thomas Harris’ Hannibal Rising by Rakhmadhani (2016). The objective of this research is to analyze the Hannibal Lecter’s psychopathy in Harris’ Hannibal Rising novel. In doing the analysis, the researcher applied psychology of literature study and used the theory from Verstappen in analyzing the psychopathy characteristics of Hannibal Lecter. As the result of the analysis, the researcher finds that the characteristics of psychopath that can be found in Hannibal Lecter are: anti-social behavior, impulsive and poor behavior, lack of empathy and poor of judgement, lack of remorse and guilty feeling, compulsive lying and manipulative. In addition, the researcher also finds out that the primary
factor of why Hannibal Lecter becomes psychopath is because he has a tragic childhood memory. Further, the writer considers to review this research since it has the similarity in analyzing the characteristics of psychopath and the writer gains the information of characteristics of psychopath from this previous research as well. In addition, the differences from this previous research and recent research can be seen from the theory and object of research, while the similarity can be seen from the approach where both of them are applied psychological approach.

2.3 Psychological Approach

The psychological theories and approach are pioneered by Sigmund Freud, he stated that in the psychological approach, the author’s perceptions, dreams, conscious or unconscious mind, the differences between the personality of the author and the author in the text are also taken into consideration (Freud in Aras, 2015: 5). In addition, Freud in Aras (2015) also stated that most themes that are represented by the authors might be the signs of their own personality traits and the study of psychological aspects in literary work is known as psychoanalytical study. In that case, in order to do the analysis of psychology in literary work, psychological approach is needed to be applied.

Thus, it makes literature and psychology are related to each other. Literature reflects human life, moreover, psychology is regarded as an inseparable part of literature. “A literary work benefits from psychology in terms of successfully presenting characters, expressing their moods, and bringing the reader into the psychological dimension of human reality” (Emir, 2016: 1). “Psychology and study of literature meet in their focus on phantasies, emotions and human soul and there exists a two-
way relationship based on mutual interaction between literature and psychology, in the form of evaluation of a literary work with the resources of psychology and obtaining psychological truths from a literary work” (Freud et al in Aras, 2015). Based on the explanation, it can be said that psychology and literature is related one into another. In the literary works, the writer believes that the author will always put a psychological aspect.

In summary, the key element in both psychology and literature might be described as the total pattern of characteristics ways of behaving and thinking that regarding to the author’s unique and distinctive method of adjusting to his/her environment. Therefore, since psychological approach is the study about psychological condition of characters in a literary work and psychopath is also related to the mental disorder, the writer needs to apply this approach to analyze psychopathic personality of the main character of American Psycho novel.

2.3 Psychopath

Psychopath as a constellation of affective interpersonal, and behavioral characteristics including egocentricity, impulsivity, irresponsibility, shallow emotions, lack of empathy, guilt or remorse, pathological lying, manipulativeness, and the persistent violation of social norms and expectations (Cleckley, 2008: 219). In other word, psychopathy is considered as an act that shows negative characteristics that possessed by someone who has mental issue.

Meanwhile Hare (1999: 33) described psychopaths as predators who use charm, manipulation, intimidation and violence to control a person in order to satisfy their selfish need. They are also lack of conscience and feeling for others and they are
also cold-blooded to take whatever they want and do whatever it takes, including violating social norms and expects to something without any sense of regret or guilt (Perri and Lichtenwald in Alfani, 2017: 27).

Thus, according to the explanation from Cleckley and Hare, there is one main point that can be taken, that is psychopath is a person who lack of empathy, an antisocial, very manipulative and commonly they are smart (intelligent). Different than any other kinds of criminal, psychopath seems one of the criminals that hard to catch because of their intelligence. As it stated by Hare (1999: 34) that psychopath is tend to be extremely organized and secretive so that they might be better educated and more dangerous than sociopath and can organized their crimes well planned out.

In addition, Hare (1999: 34) described psychopathic as a chronic mental disorder with abnormal or violent social behavior. In that case, it can be said that psychopathic is a mental disorder. Meanwhile psychopathic personality or also known as psychopathy is known as a condition marked by a set of traits, including callousness (unfeelingness), guiltlessness, dishonesty, superficial charm, egocentricity and poor impulse control (Eden, 2006: 60). Cleckley (2008: 229) stated that the term psychopathic personality deal with everything literal applicability to psychopathic disorders. Psychopathic disorder itself is known as an extreme of stimulation seeking behavior, a consequence of pathological under arousal (Quay in Martens, 2000: 411). Thus, regarding to the explanation from Quay, psychopathic disorder is considered as a behavior to an extreme emotional outlet as the consequences of unfulfilled emotional needs.
2.4 Causes of Psychopath

According to Hare (1999: 69), there are two main aspects that are considered as the causes of psychopath, they are; genetically (genotypic) and environment (phenotypic). In the matter of genotypic, Hare (1999: 75) argued that most people basically have normal personality traits and it is very small chance that many of them turn themselves into psychopath because of gen factors. In that case, it can be said that the causes of someone becomes a psychopath based on their genetic is almost impossible.

Meanwhile on the phenotypic causes, Hare (1999: 71) stated that the chance of being psychopath mostly happens in this factor, since anti-social behavior and impulsive are created based on environment itself. One of the common examples that most happens all the time is poor parenting. When parents cannot do their job properly as parents, they are having lack of skill of parenting and as the result, when a child made a mistake, parents focus on giving that child a punishment rather than to tell them the right thing to do when they are making mistake. Hare (1999: 73) also mentioned that when a child gets physical abuse or neglected by their own parents, it also becomes one of the risk factors that could change child into psychopath.

2.5 Characteristics of Psychopath

In order to describe the psychopathic disorder of the main character in the *American Psycho* novel by Bret Easton Ellis, the writer needs to understand the characteristics of psychopath. Thus, at this point, the writer summarizes the traits of psychopath based on Hare.
Commonly, these social predators have the images of cold, heartless and inhuman being, also they have high verbal intelligence yet lack of emotional intelligence and very expert in manipulating people by playing their emotions (Hare, 1999: 34). Further, Hare (1999: 35) mentioned the characteristics of psychopath into several points, they are:

**2.5.1 High Intelligent and Verbal Intelligent**

Psychopath have excellent oral skill and able to impress people with their knowledge in many areas and convincing that their view is the correct one and certain others with humorous and sometimes pleasantly strange but interesting stories (Hare, 1999: 35). In other word, psychopath is not a person who knows nothing, but on the contrary, they are quite intelligent in speaking and possible has critical thinking as well. However, it does not mean that every person who are highly intelligent is categorized as psychopath, but in this context, the intelligent on psychopath is not used to achieve any rank or position among society, but the intelligent is only to show others that he or she is able to blend in with them.

Further, the example of this characteristic can be seen from the Orphan film where the main character, Esther is very good at painting and make their painting as a story to tell for others. In another example, the character of Hannibal Lecter in the novel series by Thomas Harris. In the novel of *Red Dragon*, Lecter is known as psychiatrist in society so that when he kills some of his patients, police never suspect him.
2.5.2 Glibness or Superficial Charm

Glibness means a sign of psychopath that able to use language to deceive, confuse and convince their listeners. They are quite persuasive and have tendencies to smooth, engaging, charming, slick and verbally facile (fluent in speaking). In the first meet, a psychopath seems to be very charming, charismatic and quite likeable (Hare, 1999: 35). Based on the explanation, the writer assumed that psychopath is not only clever in speaking but also, they are charming in appearance so that they are just like a deadly-charming-animal, very beautiful outside but dangerous inside. The example of this psychopath can be seen in the character of Hannibal Lecter in *Hannibal* series. In the movie, Hannibal is known as a doctor who in daily wear a tidy suit as tidy as Gatsby character in *The Great Gatsby*. Thus, since Lecter is also a doctor, the way he speaks is very clever and can draw people attention to his mind. Unfortunately, the true identity of Hannibal is a serial killer who murder and sometime eat his victims (cannibalism).

2.5.3 Pathological Lying

Pathological lying is a core trait of a psychopath. As stated by Hare (1999: 38), psychopath often carry themselves in a nature that makes other think that they are truly care and have sympathy for others, however, all of those manners are used to present exploitation and callous ruthlessness as reflected in a lack of concern for the feeling and suffering of a victim. In other word, psychopath never truly wants to involve or care to others, they just pretend to be care to fulfil their needs. However, it does not mean that all people who lie are categorized as psychopath. The different is from the purpose or the goal of lying itself. In general, people commonly lie about many things but only when they have to. However, a
psychopath mostly tell lies as part of their life, as if he or she covers something so that others must not know the truth, especially about their identity and also to pretend as if they care about their surround but actually, they do not. The example of this characteristic is can be seen from the character of George Harvey in the novel *The Lovely Bones* where in the novel, Harvey is the one who killed Jack’s daughter, Susie Salmon but he pretends that he feels sorry for Jack’s lost.

2.5.4 Manipulative

The psychopathic maneuver is the sign of psychopath that essentially interpersonal manipulation based on charm. Psychopath use deceit and deception to cheat and defraud others for personal gain. Also, the manipulator appears to be helpful, charming even ingratiating or seductive, but is covertly hostile, domineering (Hare, 1999: 46). Based on the explanation, it means that psychopath used their intelligence of speaking and way of thinking to manipulate his or her victims for their own benefit. However, the word manipulative in the context of psychopath is unlike normal people who only manipulate people for certain benefit. The term manipulative as in psychopath is more like how they can fool his or her victims so that they can believe this psychopath and until the end, the psychopath can easily kill them. The example is still on the similar novel from the previous explanation, *The Lovely Bones* where the psychopath character, George Harvey is manipulating Susie to enter into some kind of hideout that he makes for Susie and her friends one day if they want to hang out or something. Firstly, Susie do not want to follow Harvey, but remembering that Harvey is at her next door, so Susie thought that
everything will be fine. Unfortunately, after Susie entering that hideout and noticing that there is something wrong with Harvey, he killed her.

2.5.5 Lack of Remorse or Guilt
Psychopath are not sensitive to altruistic interview themes such as sympathy for their victims or remorse over them. They are lack of feelings or concern of the losses, pain and suffering from the victims: the tendency to be unconcerned, dispassionate and cold-hearted. Psychopath also only see people as object, target and opportunity, not as human being. They never give their sympathy to release the victims although they are begging for their life (Hare, 1999: 40). Surely in this context, the lack of remorse is not just simply when someone feels happy for other’s suffering but in the psychopath, it more like they do not have any guilty feeling even though they have just killed someone with their own hands. The example is can be seen from any kinds of psychopath novel or movie where the psychopath character never feels guilty for what they have done (killing people), but they are enjoying it instead. As in the Orphan movie, when Esther killed Sister Abigail, instead of feeling guilty or regret, Esther feels empty when she killed her. Another example is from the movie Kill Bill: Volume 1 in the character of Gogo Yubari. Yubari is one of the villain characters in this movie who has psychopathic problem where when she kills someone, she enjoyed it, even laugh at it.

2.5.6 Grandiose Self-Worth (Narcistic)
Psychopath are arrogant people who believe that they are superior human beings and it makes them to present themselves as the ultimate one enlightened, a vehicle of God, a genius, a leader of humankind (Hare in Sarah, 1999: 38). In that case, it
can be said that psychopath is similar to someone who narcistic (a person who admire him or herself too much).

2.5.7 Impulsivity

The impulsive is related to the psychopath’s need for stimulation and inability to tolerate frustration, anxiety and depression. It is included for the occurrence of behaviors that are spontaneous and lack reflection or planning, inability to resist temptation, frustration and urges; lack of deliberation without considering the consequences; foolish, reckless, unpredictable and uncertain (Hare, 1999: 58).

Here, the meaning of impulsive can be said as an act that is done without thinking for the consequences. However, the psychopath can be very impulsive only when he or she needs to put the depression and anxiety away. The example can be seen from the character of Esther in *Orphan* movie. In this movie, Esther is known as a psychopath who always pretend to be child so she can be adopted by a family. Unfortunately, Esther’s goal is not to gain love from a family, but a love from the head of the family only. In other word, she always seduced her step father each time she is adopted. However, because Esther cannot resist the temptation in loving her step father, she never thinks straight when she tells her step father about her feeling. As the result, Esther always rejected by the father and in the end, she always killed the entire family after her heart was broken. In these scenes, it can be noticed that Esther is very impulsive when she deals with her feeling, especially when she confronts her step father, she cannot resist the temptation in seducing the father.
2.5.8 Antisocial

A psychopath is characterized by a mix of criminal and socially deviant behavior. Interpersonal influence, emotional poverty, deviant lifestyle and antisocial tendencies together make up the psychopath’s profile (Hare, 1999: 67). In other word, one of the characteristics of psychopath is the attitude of antisocial, which means that a psychopath is typical person who commonly keep the distance from society. Yet, although there are some people who are known as the introvert (self-centered person), they are not as similar as psychopath. Introvert is only a person who hardly blend in among society because of their personality that shy and quiet, but actually they have intention in doing social activity. Meanwhile a psychopath is more prefer to keep their distance from society because most of the psychopath thinks that they are higher or better than others (either in social status or in intelligence). The example is can be seen from the character of Hannibal Lecter in Hannibal series. In the story, Lecter is known as a person who really good in speech, he can convince people around him just from the way he talks. However, although he can blend in among society because both of his appearance (looks) and his intelligence, Lecter actually never really want to bound with the society. He better chooses live by himself and his human food, rather than with living human.

Further, related to all of the characteristics of psychopath that is explained by Hare (1999), they have function to identity whether the main character of Patrick Bateman in the novel of American Psycho is a psychopath or not.