

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **THEORETICAL REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Previous Studies**

In conducting research, previous studies are needed to help the researcher doing the research. Thus, some previous studies with the same object and/or topic are chosen as the guidance for the researcher.

In 2002, Betty Glad conducted research entitled *Why Tyrants Go Too Far: Malignant Narcissism and Absolute Power*. This paper revealed the puzzling behavior of tyrants by using the realpolitik perspective and analyzed it psychologically. Even if this paper is using the perspective of realpolitik, it can be a relevant article for the researcher because this paper also analyzed the behavior with the theory of psychology. Glad using the theory Neurotic Paradigm by Karen Homey (1950), who believes that neuroticism, creates an idealized self-image to cover the unworthy feeling. The findings of this research proved that absolute power by the tyrants can result an extreme behavior. For the sufferer of malignant narcissism, once they have absolute power, the sufferer can act out of the grandiose fantasies, overestimate their capabilities, and act in chaotic ways. Hence, this paper can be the insight for the researcher about the certain behavior and/or pattern of the sufferer of malignant narcissism if they have absolute power. This will be very beneficial in analyzing the villain characters that have power.

Benjamin P. Papps and Ronan E. O'Carrol in 1998 did a research entitled *Extremes of Self-Esteem and Narcissism and the Experience and Expression of*

Anger and Aggression. By using 700 participants, Papps and Carrol identified the role of self-esteem in the expression of anger. Thus, in doing the test, Papps and Carrol used the narcissistic personality inventory by Raskin and Terry in 1988. STAXI or the State-Trait Anger Expression Inventory by Spielberger in 1985 is also used to assess the anger intensity of the participants. This research presented the data and concluded that the level of self-esteem and narcissism are important factors and/or predictors to experience and express anger. So, this research is very beneficial for the researcher, because, through the hypothesis in that paper, the researcher may know the role of high self-esteem on the sufferer of narcissism.

In 2017, Neelambari Joshi, a psychologist, conducted a study entitled Narcissism as Reflected in the Movies and Literature. This study explained the traits of narcissists and the reflection of narcissism in literature, which in this study, Joshi used the novel by Oscar Wilde entitled *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. To reveal the traits of the sufferer, Joshi used DSM or Diagnostic and Statistic Manual as the fundamental of this study. In the discussion part, Joshi is revealing the traits of narcissism and how the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* portrayed the existence of narcissists. Joshi also stated the modern epidemic of narcissism, complete with its statistics and data. The researcher uses the study by Joshi as the reference and insight about the traits of narcissists. It also will help the researcher to know how to see the existence of narcissists in literary works.

Since this research will discuss the portrayal of narcissism in villain characters, a study by Brian Smith entitled *Mental Illness Stigma in the Media* is also used by the researcher as the previous study. The paper by Smith is proposed to explore the stigma of mental illness in the media. By using the library study method,

Smith is collecting several issues, cases, and studies to reveal how the media portrayed the sufferer of mental illness. This study showed that the extremely prominent mental illness occurs in many forms of media such as television, children's program, movies, and news media. Smith proved that media often portrayed the sufferer with the idea that they are dangerous, unpredictable, and socially undesirable. Thus, the paper by Smith can be an insight for the researcher to show how the media portrayed the sufferer of malignant narcissism through the villain characters.

A literature review in 2004 conducted by Dara Roth Edney entitled *Mass Media and Mental Illness: A Literature Review* is also used as a reference for the researcher. The study by Edney was conducted to show the relationship between mass media, mental illness, and the understanding of society. Edney believes that media mass presents the negative attitudes of the sufferer of mental illness. Therefore, Edney used the theory of Wahl about the negative stigma of mental illness in the media. Through this research, Edney could present proofs that media mass negatively portrayed mental illness. This study can be a reference for the researcher because it is relevant to this research. This research will reveal how Disney portrayed the sufferer of narcissism through its villain characters; therefore, an insight into how media portrayed it negatively can be beneficial for the researcher.

## **2.2 Psychology in Literature**

Freudian Psychoanalytic is used by the researcher to analyze the psychological problems of the characters. Freudian believes that human has three psychology elements which are Id, Ego, and Superego. The element of Id is the deepest and the most basic part of the human's personality. The id represents the wants, needs, and desires of humans, such as the desire and need for food and sex. Mcleod (2019) stated that Id consists of all the inherited components of the personality of humanity, included sex, life instinct, libido, and aggressive. It locates in the unconscious part of human psychology, so the response will be immediate and direct responses. The second element is Ego which locates between the unrealistic of Id and the external world. The ego will work and operate by rational reasons and according to the principle in reality. The ego can postpone and deny the unreasonable Id to avoid the negative consequences. The last element in human psychology according to Freud is Superego which controlling Id and Ego. It controls the impulses of humans towards forbidden things that are forbidden by society.

Hence, the researcher will use the Freudian Psychoanalytic to analyze the behaviors of the villain characters in Disney's movies.

As this research discusses the psychology in literary works, Freudian Psychoanalytic will be supported by the Freudian Literary Criticism by Sigmund Freud. Freudian Literary Criticism is a development of Psychoanalytic of three elements in a human's personality (Verzo, 2016). Freudian Literary Criticism is useful to analyze the existence of psychological conflicts, or in this research Malignant Narcissism, in movies, because it uses the psychoanalytic theory of Sigmund Freud to help the researcher interpret the works. By using Freudian

Literary Criticism, the actions and/or psychological problems suffered by the characters can be analyzed using the three personality elements. Freudian Literary Criticism is also well known as Psychoanalytic criticism. It was developed and adopted the reading method by Freud. This theory was used to interpret the text and/or literary works; therefore, the researcher can use this theory as the fundamental of this research.

### **2.3 Psychological Film Theory**

In analyzing the existence and symptoms of Malignant Narcissism inside Disney live-action movies, the researcher believes that it is important to use the psychological film theory. After the psychology theory existed, many experts believed that a method to investigate the human mind is also important. Thus, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Sigmund Freud brought the process of the psychoanalytical process to films. This theory is closely related to psychoanalysis theory by Freudian because it aims to find and analyze psychoanalysis in movies.

Psychologists believe that movies have a deeper impact on the audiences, especially in shaping the opinion and perception, because of the cognitive ability of humans on seeing the moving image (Film Theory, 2014). Thus, in analyzing the existence of mental illness in movies, every detail such as the dialogues, scenes, and expressions will be important.

### **2.4 Narcissistic Personality Disorder and Malignant Narcissism**

The term narcissism was borrowed from a German psychiatrist, Paul Näcke. The concept that the self is a frequent placement of the libido (narcissism) had been

circulating for almost three years in the discussion of psychoanalysis (Nunberg & Federn, 1910, p.541). On November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1909, Sigmund Freud, as the founder of psychoanalysis, declared the concept of narcissism. Freud stated that all humans have their own level of narcissism throughout their development, Freud defines narcissism as the adoration of themselves. Sigmund Freud believes that narcissism was a phase of development when a person does not transfer his or her self-love to other people or objects (Thurschwell, 2000, p.83).

After the concept of narcissism that was declared by Sigmund Freud, the further conceptual of narcissism mental condition was proposed by Heinz Kohut in 1968, which produced the term Narcissistic Personality Disorder. Heinz Kohut believes that Narcissistic Personality Disorder or NPD was the result of the developmental arrest in the normal psychological growth of humans. In the theory by Kohut, NPD is a natural feature of humans that exist since a child. It is the effect of the boundaries of humans who think they are the center of the universe.

In accordance, this research specifically discussed the specific type of NPD, which is Malignant Narcissism. Kernberg (1984) described Malignant Narcissism as a mental disorder characterized by the symptoms of Narcissistic Personality Disorder. Kernberg pointed out that the antisocial personality was the fundamental that causes the occurrence of Malignant Narcissism. In his article, Kernberg stated the personality of Malignant Narcissism which includes sadistic and without morality.

## **2.5 Malignant Narcissism Symptoms**

The symptoms or characteristics of Malignant Narcissism are nearly the same as Narcissistic Personality Disorder, with a few more specific additions. It is because Malignant Narcissism is one of the types of NPD. American Journal of Psychiatry noted that in NPD there are three major subtypes, which are grandiose “overt” type, fragile “covert” type, and high functioning “exhibitionist” type (Kim, 2019). Malignant Narcissism itself included in the "exhibitionist" type. Thus, the fundamental of the symptoms will use the symptoms of Narcissistic Personality Disorder, according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder (DSM). Narcissism is classified into DSM-III, because, the disorders in DSM-III usually are those who arise and manifested themselves in infancy, adolescence, and adult (Spitzer & Cantwell, 1980).

There are five diagnostic criteria of the sufferers of Narcissistic Personality Disorder, which are;

- 2.5.1. Sense of self-importance and/or uniqueness
- 2.5.2. Fantasize about unlimited power, brilliance, beauty, or ideal life
- 2.5.3. The person requires admiration and attention constantly (exhibitionism)
- 2.5.4. Feelings of anger
- 2.5.5. At least feel two of the following characteristics of disturbances in personal (love, emptiness in responding criticism or defeat, expect special favors without expecting reciprocal responsibilities, interpersonal exploitative, over-idealization and devaluation, and lack of empathy) (Spitzer & Cantwell, 1980).

Meanwhile, the specific criteria of Malignant Narcissism are;

- 2.5.6. Take advantage of others to get what they want
- 2.5.7. Be envious of others and believe others envy them
- 2.5.8. Behave arrogantly or haughtily
- 2.5.9. Have difficulty regulating emotions and behavior (Mayo Clinic).

To be diagnosed as the sufferer of Narcissistic Personality Disorder, a person must experience the number of the symptoms one to four, and experience at least two symptoms from number 5, as explained above. While to be diagnosed as the sufferer of Malignant Narcissism, a person must experience all symptoms that have been written above. It is important for society to know the symptoms and characteristics of NPD and MN's sufferer, because the sufferer may impact their environment and give the negativity, which actually out of their control, and by knowing the symptoms, society can give prevention actions and know the way to face an NPD or MN sufferer. The sufferer usually has problems with anger grandiose self, which resulted in the dynamic relationship of the sufferer, because the sufferer often cannot control it and does not realize what they have done.