

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Research

Literature and psychology are two branches of science that study human soul, since in psychology, it analyses human behaviors and their causes (Emir, 2016), while literature depicts human behavior (characterizations) through fiction (Creswell in Habibah and Nurmaily, 2020). Thus, based on the explanation, it can be said that both literature and psychology is studying human behavior in different perspectives. Jung in Emir (2016) stated that psychology provides insights into literature by exploring mental processes such as the presenting of characters, expressing their moods, and bring the readers into the psychological dimension of human reality. Further, the correlation between literature and psychology is commonly seen in a literary work.

Literary work is divided into three main categories, they are drama, poetry and narrative story (short story) where each of them tells a different theme(Siswantoro in Yunara and Kardiansyah, 2017). In the case of drama and narrative stories, a different plot means a different problem that exists. However, Boggs et all in Gofur (2015) mentioned that there is another variety of literary work that because of a new form of technology which emerged in the late nineteenth century that is known as movie. Hence, movie is also recognized as a unique and powerful art form on a part with painting, sculpture, music, literature and drama (Stam in Adepati and Samanik, 2018).

Thus, since the movie itself is another version of literary work, the writer considered that every movie also has its own theme and genre in order to make the story interesting. One of the themes that can be found in some movies is psychological issue such as bipolar disorder, multiple personality and many more. In other word, many issues that can be discussed in a movie, and related to that, the writer through this research is interested in analyzing one of the psychological issues which in this case a psychopathic disorder.

Psychopathic disorder is known as a constellation of affective interpersonal and behavioral characteristics including egocentricity, impulsivity, irresponsibility, shallow emotions, lack of empathy, guilt or remorse, pathological lying, manipulateness and the persistent violation of social norms and expectations (Hare and Neumann, 2008). In short, psychopathic disorder is considered as an act that shows negative characteristics that is possessed by someone who has mental issue. However, different from psychopathic disorder, a psychopath itself is described as the predators who use charm, manipulation, intimidation and violence to control a person to satisfy their selfish need (Hare in Wirawan and Samanik, 2018).

Further, related to the topic of this research, the writer noticed that the importance of studying psychopathic disorder in literature will help the readers to understand more about the difference between psychopath and psychopathic disorder and how it represents the characters of a literary work. In that case, regarding to the topic discussion, the writer chose one of the literary works that have a theme of psychopathic disorder which is a film entitled *The House that Jack Built* (2018) by Lars von Trier to be analyzed.

Here, the story of the movie tells about a man named Jack who killed many people without noticed by public. However, instead of feeling guilty, Jack considered his murders as an act of art rather than sins or revenge. In the chronicles of the movie, the story seems told by progressive and regressive plot which means that at the beginning until the climax of the movie, it was a depiction of Jack's flashback that he told to someone known as Verge. The movie also shows how Jack killed his victims through five different incidents, starts when he killed a woman who has bad manner that needs help to fix her broken jack to repair a flat tire.

However, when Jack is about to start his last act of murder, he has surprisingly met someone, a person known as the Verge. Here, Verge is the one who has been observing Jack throughout his life and reminds him that he has never really built a house he intended to. In his mind, Jack wants to build a perfect house in-between his murders, but in the real world, he did not.

Thus, still in the freezer, Jack arranges those frozen corpses he has collected and shape it into a form of a house. When police arrived, Jack enters his makeshift house and follows Verge into a hole in the ground, which leads into Hell. Further, after passing a few scenes, Jack and Verge finally reach a broken bridge that spans the pit and sees a stairway on the other side of the bridge. Verge says that it was the only way out of Hell and Jack attempts to scale a rock wall to reach the staircase. Unfortunately, Jack did not make it and eventually falls into the abyss below.

Therefore, based on the story, the writer assumed that Jack, the main character in the story is mentally ill and considered as a psychopath. In that case, the writer is

interested in analyzing the psychopathic disorder of Jack in this research by using psychological approach and analyzing it using Verstappen's theory (2011)

1.2 Research Questions

Regarding to the background of research above, the writer formulates research questions as follows:

What are the psychopathic disorders as reflected by Jack in Trier's *The House that Jack Built*?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the research question, the objective of this research is to describe the psychopathic disorder as reflected by Jack in Trier's *The House that Jack Built*.

1.4 Uses of Research

1.4.1 Theoretical Use

Theoretically, this research can be used as one of the references for the next researchers who conduct similar topic discussion, which is about psychopathic disorder and its characteristics. Also, the writer hopes that this research can enrich the readers' knowledge especially in the psychology of literature study.

1.4.2 Practical Use

The writer hopes that after reading this research, it can enrich and improve readers' knowledge about literature, especially about psychopathic disorder and how the theory of psychopathic disorder can be implemented in a literary work. Hopefully,

after reading this research, the readers can understand more about mental disorders, especially psychopathic disorder.

1.5 Scope of Research

In the movie of *The House that Jack Built* by Lars von Trier, many aspects that can be discussed. However, in this research, the writer only focuses on describing the characteristics of psychopathic disorder as reflected in the main character of Jack, in *The House that Jack Built* (2018) movie by applying psychological approach and using Verstoppen's Theory (2011).