

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Previous Study

Previous studies used to provide examples of how to analyze and conduct research with a good result. It also has function to regard new research findings. Hence, the writer has review three previous studies that become the writer's consideration to conduct this study. However, there are also differences and similarities between the previous studies and this recent research.

The first previous study that is describing 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 Verstappen (2011) in describing the characteristics of psychopath. As the result, the research shows that there are five characteristics of psychopath from the main character in the novel, they are; lack of remorse, lying, compulsive, manipulative and anti-social behavior. Further, the researcher also finds out that the cause of the psychopath in the novel is because of the family problem. Here, the writer reviews this previous study since in this research, it shows the information about psychopath's characteristics and it also provides information about the psychology of literature. In addition, although the difference between this research and recent research is from the object of research, but the similarity comes from the

uses of approach and theory where both of this previous research and recent research is similarly applied psychological approach and conducted Verstappen's theory (2011).

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 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 in Frank's character, they are: highly intelligence, lack of remorse or guilt, impulsive, poor behavior control and lack of empathy. Also, the researcher found out that the cause 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 between this previous research and recent research can be seen from the approach where both of them are applied psychological approach. Meanwhile, the difference is from the object of research and theory wherein the recent research, the writer analyzes the film of *The House that Jack Built* (2018) and applying Verstappen theory (2011).

Lastly, the 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 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 judgment, lack of remorse and guilty feeling, compulsive lying and manipulative. In addition, the researcher also finds out that the primary factor why Hannibal Lecter becomes psychopath is because he has a tragic childhood memory. Further, the writer considers reviewing 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 object of research, while the similarity can be seen from the theory and approach where both of them are applied psychological approach and conducting Verstappen theory.

2.3 Psychological Approach

The psychological theories and approaches 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). Freud in Aras (2015) also added that most themes that are represented by

the authors might be the signs of their personality traits and the study of psychological aspects in literary work is known as psychoanalytical study. In that case, to do the analysis of psychology in literary work, a 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. As supported by Emir (2016) that 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. “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 are related one to 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 (Chippendale in Mahendra and Amelia, 2020). 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 Jack in *The House that Jack Built* movie.

2.3 Psychopathic Disorder

Hare (1999) described psychopaths as predators who use charm, manipulation, intimidation and violence to control a person 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 above, it can be said that a psychopath is a person who lacks of empathy, an antisocial, very manipulative and commonly they are smart (intelligent). Different than any other kind of criminal, a psychopath seems one of the criminals that hard to catch because of their intelligence. As it stated by Hare (1999: 34) that psychopath tends to be extremely organized and secretive so that they might be better educated and more dangerous than sociopath and can organize their crimes well planned out.

Furthermore, Hare (1999: 34) described psychopathic disorder 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).

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). 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 Characteristics of Psychopathic Disorder

In order to describe the psychopathic disorder of the main character in *The House that Jack Built* movie by Lars von Trier, the writer needs to understand its characteristics. Thus, at this point, the writer summarizes the traits of psychopathic disorder based on Verstappen (2011). According to Verstappen (2011), the characteristics of psychopathic disorder are divided into nine points, they are; lack of empathy, lack of remorse, superficiality, grandiosity, irresponsibility, impulsive behavior, compulsive lying, manipulative and anti-social behavior.

2.4.1 Lack of Empathy

Empathy is the ability to experience within oneself, the feelings and emotions expressed by others and it something that allows people to feel what others feel (Verstappen, 2011). In other words, empathy is the one thing that makes us human. However, psychopaths have no empathy and worse, they are neither truly human nor truly alive. Here, Verstappen (2011) also explained that psychopaths realize at an early age that they are different than others and they should act as everyone else in order to be accepted into society and also, they learn to mimic what others do even though they never understand why they should act this way.

The example can be noticed when a psychopath attending a funeral, he or she would mimic the similar expression of sadness as the others who attend the funeral, but

then makes sexual advances towards the grieving widow clueless to the gross inappropriateness of such an action (Verstappen, 2011: 7).

2.4.2 Lack of Remorse

Verstappen (2011) explained remorse as an emotional expression of personal regret felt by a person after he or she committed an act, whether something to be shameful, hurtful or violent. Unfortunately for psychopaths, they have no empathy so that they have no emotional expression as well and even worse, they cannot feel shame or comprehend that anything they do can be harmful to others.

In the end, psychopaths understand when people are angry at them for their behavior, but they may pretend that they are sorry. They may pretend remorse but their real behavior has not changed, they still go to wherever they want or have no problem sleeping at night even after doing something bad (Verstappen, 2011).

Here, the example can be seen from any kind 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 novel of *American Psycho* (1991) where Patrick Bateman never feels guilty in killing his victims who mostly women, he even enjoying when seeing them suffer because of the pain that he gave before they finally die (Schaffer, 2011).

2.4.3 Superficiality

Passion drives someone to go further than needed to explore, learn and master a subject. Similarly, with most people who enjoy listening to music but then it makes them eager to learn how to play an instrument. However, psychopaths will never be

able to go beyond the surface of most knowledge, they only indicated a “superficial” comprehension of some or many subjects but are often seen by true experts as being shallow and this superficiality extends to their attempts at acting normal by showing false emotions through an exaggerated effect (Verstappen, 2011).

Thus, based on the explanation, it can be noticed that in the case of superficiality, psychopaths mostly do not have a comprehension of knowledge expertly. They just know about the surface of many subjects without knowing the detail and they are hiding it by acting normal and showing false emotions to others.

2.4.4 Grandiosity

Psychopaths live in a falsely constructed worldview in which they are both literally and figuratively god and often seen as megalomaniacs (a person who is obsessed with their own power) and they also have an equally overblown sense of entitlement (Verstappen, 2011). In that case, it can be said that psychopath is similar to someone who narcissistic (a person who admire him or herself too much) for instance, the character of Patrick Bateman in American Psycho (1991) novel shows that he always admired himself in front of the mirror because he always treats his own body with branded products and routine exercise (Schaffer, 2011).

2.4.5 Irresponsibility

Psychopaths are irresponsible because nothing is ever their fault, they only blame others for their problems and this mostly happens since they always think of themselves as perfect beings (Verstappen, 2011). In other word, in the mind of psychopaths, they always dictate that everything bad is always someone else’s fault.

2.4.6 Impulsive Behavior

Verstappen (2011) explained that the impulsive is related to the psychopath's need for stimulation and inability to tolerate frustration, anxiety and depression, and it is included for the occurrence of spontaneous behavior and lack reflection or planning, inability to resist temptation, frustration and urges; lack of deliberation without considering the consequences; foolish, reckless, unpredictable and uncertain.

The example can be seen from the character of Esther in *Orphan* movie wherein the story, Esther is known as a psychopath who always pretends as a 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 words, she always seduced her stepfather each time she is adopted. However, because Esther cannot resist the temptation of loving her stepfather, she never thinks straight when she tells her stepfather about her feeling. As the result, Esther was 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 stepfather, she cannot resist the temptation in seducing the father (Maulanie, 2011).

2.4.7 Compulsive Lying

Psychopaths are very good and easy to lie as easy and natural as breathing and they even can fool trained psychiatrists and even other psychopaths (Verstappen, 2011). Further, Verstappen (2011) also added that psychopaths often carry themselves in a nature that makes others think that they are truly caring 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 words, psychopaths never truly want to involve or care for others, they just pretend to care to fulfill their needs. However, it does not mean that all people who lie are categorized as psychopaths. The difference 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 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 loss (Familyati, 2016).

2.4.8 Manipulative

After spent their lifetime studying others, psychopaths are masters of manipulation and experts on knowing how to push our buttons to use our emotions against others and they use their manipulative skill to keep those around them confused, unable to think clearly and off-balance (Verstappen, 2011). Hare (1999) also added that psychopaths 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. 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 does 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 (Familyati, 2016).

2.4.9 Anti-Social Behavior

The very essence of the psychopath is anti-social, they are lack of empathy for those who extend onto society and the environment (Verstappen, 2011). In other words, one of the characteristics of psychopath is the attitude of antisocial, which means that a psychopath is a typical person who commonly keeps 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 psychopaths. Introvert is only a person who hardly blends 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 the Hannibal series. In the story, Lecter is known as a person who really good at 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 society. He better chooses to live by himself and his human food, rather than with living humans (Rakhmadani, 2016).