

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of Research

Mr. Jacob Strane is a 42 years old teacher. He teaches English in an elite boarding school in Maine. He is a pedophilia who repeatedly rapes his 14 years old student, Vanessa Wye, a poor student who gets scholarship in the elite school. She is bookish and lonely, but she is beautiful. Before having a sex with her, Mr. Strane seduces her by telling her she has hair like maple leaves and reading her poems. Then, he puts his hand on her leg under a desk. Then, he shows her the novel 'Pale Fire' referenced in the title: "Come and be worshiped, come and be caressed". She never kisses any boy before but she welcomes him. He furtively kisses her then. After that, he continues to rape her. She cries but can do nothing since he threatens that she will have to go into foster care if she tells anyone.

It is their first sex. Vanessa does not understand what actually happens. She has been sexually abused but she does not believe it was a rape but a first love. She confidants that Mr. Strane groomed her as she said, "all I can think of is the lovely warm feeling I'd get when he stroked my hair". After the tragedy, they have a relationship and routinely make a love. Vanessa actually realizes that she is a victim, but her feeling deludes herself so she enjoys everything happens, although sometimes she feels trauma. In that situation, Mr. Strane constantly uses Vanessa to satisfy his desires. To reach it, he does everything like seducing, lying, threatening

her. One point that should be known is he is a very greasy operator who chides himself for making you feel sorry for him.

That is a short summary of the novel *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russel. The novel which was published on March 10<sup>th</sup> 2020 so far has achieved some awards; Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Fiction and for Debut Novel 2020, Lovelybooks Leserpreis Nominee for Romane 2020 (Goodreads.com). As narrated above, the novel tells a story about a sexual abuse done by a psychopath teacher to his young student in psychopathic way. Cleckley (2006) defines psychopath as below:

“Psychopath is considered as the one who has antisocial personality disorder. Generally, the people with the psychopath are selfish, they will do everything to get what they want, they do not care at all about the effect of their action to others, instead of having the guilty feeling with others’ suffering, they do enjoy it.” (Cleckley, 2006).

As quoted above, people who suffer psychopathic personality disorder do not have guilty feeling and fears, selfish, and can do everything to reach their goals, like what Mr. Strane does on Vanessa. Thus, being surrounding them need to be more aware of ourselves. Moreover, they cannot be detected physically. Vien and Beech (2006) explain that psychopath is not a person that can be readily recognized by physical symptoms that are seen within other types of mental illnesses or disorders. However, no one wants to be psychopath. Therefore, understanding knowledge about psychopath will help people to avoid the factor causing psychopathy and avoid them by realizing what they do as the symptom of psychopathy.

This paper was attempted to find out the psychopathic personality disorder in *My Dark Vanessa* novel by describing the causes and symptoms within Mr. Jacob Strane character using psychological approach. In this paper, the character would be analyzed to find the factor causes him being psychopath and what kind of psychopathic action he does. To analyze it, the theories applied in this paper are (1) Glenn et al (2011) and (2) Verstappen (2011). Glenn et al (2011) says there are two factors causing someone to be psychopathy: genetic and social experience. And, Verstappen (2011) mentions that there are eight symptoms of psychopathy; callousness and lack of empathy, grandiose senses of self worth, pathological lying, conning and manipulative, lack remorse and guilt, poor behavioral controls, lack of realistic long-term goals and antisocial.

From this paper, it is expected to reach more knowledge about psychopathy so than reader will be able to understand more about psychopathy. Hopefully, this research can be a guidance for readers to make a decision when they are dealing with psychopathy, its causing factor, its symptoms, or psychopath. On the other hand, this will enrich knowledge of literature and psychology.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

Based on the research background, the present researcher arranges the research questions as follow :

1. What are the psychopathic personalities symptoms reflected in Mr. Strane character in *My Dark Vanessa*?
2. What are the causes that makes Mr. Strane suffer psychopathic personality disorder?

### **1.3 Research Objectives**

Based on the research question, the present researcher has objectives of the study as follows :

1. To reveal the causes that make Mr. Strane suffer psychopathic personality disorder.
2. To reveal the symptoms that make Mr. Strane suffers from Psychopathic Personality Disorder.

### **1.4 Research Uses**

#### **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 personality disorder and its symptoms. In addition, the writer also 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, the readers can improve their knowledge about literature, especially about psychopathic personality disorder and how its theory can be implemented in a literary work. Moreover, the readers, both common readers and students are able to understand more about mental disorder, especially psychopathic disorder.

### **1.5 The Scope Research**

In the novel of *My Dark Vanessa* (2011) by Elizabeth Kate Russell, there are many aspects that can be discussed and analyzed. However, in this research, the writer only focuses on describing the cause and the symptoms of psychopathic personality disorder as seen by the character of Jacob Strane in the novel by conducting psychological approach and applying the theory of Glenn et al (2011) and Verstappen (2011).