

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature that is interwoven in the field of psychology is a discipline where language is used as a medium of expression to interpret humans, existence and culture (Mahendra & Amelia, 2020). Personality as well as individual differences that are always studied and discussed by artists, psychologists, and psychiatrists. There is a very strong correlation between literature and psychology for the fact that both deal with humans and their reactions, perceptions of the world, misery, Fear, desire, conflict and reconciliation. In this context, personality, the key element in both psychology and literature can be described “*as the total pattern of characteristic ways of behaving and thinking*” that is a unique and distinctive method of individuals to adapt to their environment” (Kagan & Havemann, 1968, p. 422). Psychology is actually related to psychoanalysis in literary works, apart from characters, authors and the writing process, not only that but also subject to a psychoanalytic approach (Amelia, 2021). To express the fact that literature and psychology are interrelated, it is widely believed that psychology enriches the power of the process of creation and production.

Jung stated that “*It is quite clear that psychology, being one of the studies of psychic processes, can be brought to bear the study of literature, because the human soul is the Womb of all sciences and arts*” (1990, p.217). Despite their peculiar nature, and specific principles and terms, both psychology and literature

benefit from each other in the process of explaining, interpreting and discussing issues related to male-female relationships, men's place in society, desires, failures, achievements and so on. Jung also discussed the relationship between psychology and the arts by considering their relative principles: *"Psychology and the study of the arts always have to ask each other for help which means that the two cannot be separated from each other, because the one will not cancel the other... Both principles are valid despite relativity"* (1990, p. 218). Thus, literature has the ability to depict the real issue in real life that happens among society. The existence of the problem can be due to conflict from outside (external) and conflict from inside (Internal). External conflict is a conflict that occurs between a character and something outside himself/herself maybe with the natural environment, or maybe the human, social environment. While internal conflict (or psychological conflict) on the other hand is a conflict that occurs in the heart, soul of a character in the story. So, it was a conflict man experiences with himself. This is an internal problem from within humans (Nurgiyantoro, 2007).

This research focuses on bringing the issue of external conflict that is seen in literature. The researcher wants to highlight that the external conflict, or the problems from outside, can give a person internal conflict as well. Through this research, the researcher wants to raise the awareness of society towards the internal conflict that exists among society. The proof of how other people, as the external element, can affect a person and gives him/her an internal conflict, or psychological issue. Alyssa (2021) stated that talking about psychological issues

and bringing the issue to the surface will encourage people to talk openly about mental health. Psychological issues usually can arise or be experienced by sufferers because of the behavior and attitudes that a person does toward other people that damage the psychological health of the victim. Usually, in most cases, the people who do that are called the perpetrator. The people who give psychological impacts to the victim also can be referred to as the perpetrator. Thus, those people who do certain things, such as domestic violence, psychological abuse, or manipulative behavior, also can be called perpetrators. A case of psychological abuse that hurts the victim mentally always has the perpetrator in it. (Hover, 2019) This research focuses on the depiction of psychological abuse in literature, where there are the perpetrator and victim. A discussion about how the victim can be abused psychologically by the perpetrator will be the main focus of this research. (Hastika, 2013)

Abuse is a mistreatment by other people or people who violate someone's human and civil rights. Abuse can range from treating someone with disrespect in a way that significantly affects a person's quality of life, causing physical suffering. Mostly there are 6 types of abuse: physical, sexual, verbal /emotional, mental / psychological, financial / economic, cultural/ identity. In reality, the abuser is the closest person. By looking at the definition, psychological abuse is able to cause great destruction of the victim's self-esteem, sense of safety, and mental health. By considering how much damage to the victim is caused by the perpetrator of psychological abuse, the researcher decided to bring the issue to this research. Additionally, most of the people are not aware of the issue because the wound and

scar cannot be seen, since it is located in the psychology of the victim. In 2013, an article revealed that there are 48.4% of women and 48.8% of men who reported the psychological abuse that is done by their intimate partner (Karakurt & Silver, 2013). However, the data showed that there is no significant difference between the data from men and women and it shows that psychological abuse can be done and gotten by both men and women. The data just showed how high the cases of psychological abuse within intimate partners are. Considering that, the researchers hope this research can make society aware towards this issue so that they can avoid things that can harm themselves and also people have better awareness about psychological abuse in intimate partners.

The issue of psychological abuse usually happens in a relationship and within the intimate partner. According to the data by National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), psychological abuse was commonly experienced by the people in a romantic partnership. It means that the victim got psychological abuse from his/her intimate partner as the perpetrator (Peatee, 2018). Additionally, Follingstad and Rogers also agreed that psychological abuse happens in romantic relationships or couples, but usually in the problematic ones (Follingstad D. , 2007). Intimate relationship itself further discussed as the inclusive of any romantic and or sexual relationship between two non-biologically-related people, and it is including dating or courtship relationship, relationship in which the partner lives together, relationship in which two people have children but no longer sexually and romantically involved, and marital relationships (Mouradian,

2014). Thus, regardless of gender, intimate relationships and psychological abuse can happen to any type of relationship.

This research focuses on discussing the psychological abuse that happens in intimate queer relationship. The researcher sees lack of research that discussed the existence of psychological abuse in queer relationship. Most of the researchers focused only on the existence of psychological issues in a straight relationship. That fact then urged the researcher to bring the issue but see it from the perspective of queer relationship. In antiquity the term 'queer' was at best, slang for homosexuals, at worst, a term of homophobic abuse. In recent years 'queer' has been used differently, sometimes as a general term for a culturally marginalized coalition of sexual self-identification and at other times to describe a nascent theoretical model that has developed from more traditional lesbian and gay studies (Ramadhani & Setiawan, 2021). Broadly speaking, queer describes a movement or analytical model that dramatizes incoherence in the supposedly stable relationships between sex chromosomes, gender, and sexual desire. According to Cheves (2019), queer encompasses any non-cisgender, non-heterosexual identity, relationship, behavior, or desire (Cheves, 2019). To specify the research about psychological abuse in queer relationship the researcher has chosen the object of analysis of this research. This research used a novel by Carmen Maria Machado entitled *In the Dream House* to be the object of analysis. The novel *In the Dream House* is a memoir that was published in 2019. This novel shows about good and bad, love and abuse, and the tenderness and violence that Machado experienced with her ex-girlfriend (unnamed). The synopsis of the

story focused on how the main character could move on from the toxic relationship that she had before. Machado is one of the young creative writing students in the Midwest, he meets other writers, she is a woman, "thin and androgynous," but her name is not mentioned in this novel, instead Machado calls her the dream house woman, and the two fall into an abusive affair. Passionately. The woman became Machado's first true girlfriend. For someone who feels that as a "weird fat girl" she is lucky to be loved at all, she thinks the relationship is a revelation. Machado rejoices that his wishes are reciprocated "without needing to change a single cell" of who he is. Over time their relationship, which has been marred by several outbursts of jealousy and controlling behavior on the part of the woman in the *DreamHouse*, becomes a fluctuating between tenderness and bursts of verbal and psychological abuse. Through the synopsis of the story, the readers may already know that the main character is a queer. Therefore, by looking at the synopsis of the story, the researcher assumes that the novel contains the material of psychological abuse in queer relationship.

1.2 Research Question

Considering the background of the study as written above, a research question has been set by the researcher. This research problem is as followed: How is psychological abuse in the queer relationship portrayed *In the Dream House* novel by Machado?

1.3 Research Objective

By looking at the research questions, the researcher also has made the research objective. This research aims to fulfill the research objective, which is: To reveal the psychological abuse in queer relationship portrayed on the Machado's character in the novel *In The Dream House*

1.4 Use of Study

There are two used of the study of this research, as written below:

1.4.1 Practical Use

In practical use, the research can raise public awareness and insight about the psychological abuse issue. The researcher believes it is important to share the knowledge of how the intimate partner also can commit psychological issues. Thus, through this research, the researcher hopes society can have better awareness about psychological abuse within intimate partners. Additionally, the researcher also can have better knowledge towards the existence of queer relationship.

1.4.2 Theoretical Use

In theoretical use, the theories that are written and used by the researcher in this research can be used as references for other researchers under the same topic or issue. The theories that are included in this research can embrace other future researchers to conduct deeper analysis about psychological abuse and/or queer relationship. This research can be used as guidance for future researchers as well.

1.5 Scope of the Study

To avoid the broader discussion, the researcher set the limit of the research in the scope of the study. This research focuses on revealing the portrayal of psychological abuse within the queer relationship between Machado and ex-girlfriend in a novel entitled *In the Dream House*. To get the data of this research the researcher focuses on the dialogue, setting and behavior of Machado and her ex-girlfriend (main character). In this study, the researcher used the theory of psychological abuse from Murphy and Hoover.