

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Mental health is an important aspect of a human's life. Maintaining a healthy mental state can lead to an improved life, productivity, and interrelation between individuals. However, problems involving mental health can occur in a person's mind, especially youngsters, where a stressful condition may emerge from the relationship with their friends, family, or schoolwork. One example of a problem involving mental health among youths is self-dissatisfaction. According to Hurlock (1974), self-dissatisfaction is a common, low-level satisfaction of a certain person that is commonly found in adolescence that it is often just dismissed as teenage angst; but what starts as occasional angst can become constant, and what becomes constant angst can end motivating choices of the self-defeating, even self-destructive kind. The adolescence process is driven by dissatisfaction. It begins with the separation from childhood around ages 9 – 13 when in words and actions the young person lets it be known that he or she is no longer content to be defined and treated as just a child anymore. Dissatisfaction breeds the motivation to change, to act more grown up, and the young person becomes less tractable when being told what must and must not be done. As he or she resolves to achieve more independence, living on parental terms becomes more difficult to do.

In adolescence, identity becomes attached to fashionable dress, to cool products one owns, and to the entertainment one has experienced. Teenagers are always running behind the times, and if they can't catch up are in danger of not fitting in and feeling out of it, of being treated that way by their peers. And of course, there's no way most adolescents can measure

up to the youthful celebrities and models that are glamorized by the media, so most teenagers feel relatively inadequate and self-dissatisfied when making this comparison, as they can't help but do. Thus, when these ideas do not deliver well or the child is unable to fulfill the wish of their parents, he or she will experience an inner disruption or suffer from hesitation regarding their own self or their quality. One example of self-dissatisfaction in real life is the teenagers' realization that they cannot fulfill the ideal value in which they can be appreciated. Those values can be in form of, for example, intelligence and beauty. Also, the stereotype is that a girl must be beautiful to be accepted. According to Nurmaily & Aryangga,(2017) stereotyping occurs when a person associates a certain characteristic (i.e. physical traits, social roles) with their objects. If a teenager does not fulfill those values, they will feel that they are not enough, and therefore not worthy to be appreciated. Afrianto (2018) describes that the ideas themselves refer to the content, message, and purpose informed. In addition, according to Pickhardt (2013) self-dissatisfaction often manifests in anger, whether inward or outward. Inward anger is the feeling of rage or anxiousness directed toward the person himself, while outer anger is the type of anger that is directed toward external objects, or other people.

Self-dissatisfaction is most common during adolescence period, which strengthens the reason why the writer decides to analyze the character Carrie White, the main protagonist in Stephen King's *Carrie*. *Carrie* is a gothic horror novel by American author Stephen King. It was King's first published novel, released on April 5, 1974, and is widely known for its violent theme, disturbing scenes, and inappropriate behavior shown by adolescents. Thus, received many controversies from critics. The novel's setting is set primarily in the forthcoming 1979 year, it revolves around Carrie White, a bullied and friendless high school girl from a violent religious household who uses her newfound telekinetic powers to take revenge on those who abuse her. Most of the story in the novel revolves around Carrie's

school-life and the common theme in teenager's stories such as relationships and prom. The main character, Carrie White is depicted as a girl who has very limited knowledge and experience about everything that occurs around her. She even misunderstood her period, a normal occurrence for a girl of her age, and mistakenly think that she will die of bleeding. The main reason for this is her dogmatic mother as well as an overly-devoted Christian, Margaret White, who exposes her to false and radical interpretations of the world. Carrie's mother plays a significant role in shaping her daughter's overall behavior. Being fatherless, Carrie's perspective and point of view are subsequently limited from her mother only. Eventually, Carrie's over-innocence has led her to a victim of bullying from her schoolmates, which she feels more pressured about and develops her self-dissatisfaction even further.

This study aims to find Carrie's self-dissatisfaction. The writer employs Hurlock's theory to analyze the main character's self-dissatisfaction. Hurlock (1974) lays out ten main causes of self-dissatisfaction, which are: unrealistic expectations, environmental obstacles, unfavorable social attitudes, personal limitations, severe emotional strain, repeated failures, identification with maladjusted people, inability to get a proper self-perspective, poor childhood training, and lack of motivation. Ultimately, after finding the causes of self-dissatisfaction in Carrie, the writer can deduce the manifestation of self-dissatisfaction as described in Carrie's personality through pieces of evidence from her dialogue, behavior, or inner monologues.

This research is important to be carried out as the occurrence of self-dissatisfaction is common among people, especially teenagers. The portrayal of Carrie's low self-esteem and false interpretation of stigma from her mother may also occur in people in real life, therefore it is realistic. Therefore, the moral value or lesson can be applied to real social interactions (Mahendra & Amelia. 2020). The moral value can be taken into a real-life perspective

because it conveys realism, which, in some cases may be found in real life itself. According to Kardiansyah (2017), realism is used as a response to the imaginative description expressed by a literary work. Samanik (2018) strengthens the writer's ideas in terms that the author's perception of the world and reality affects the work he expressed. The writer puts importance in conducting this study to describe how self-dissatisfaction can significantly affect a person's life. Considering this factor, the writer, therefore, concludes that this research has the urgency to be carried out.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study which has been written by the researcher above, the researcher formulates the research question of the problem which are:

1. What are the causes of self-dissatisfaction that is suffered by the main character in the novel?
2. How is self-dissatisfaction captured from the main character?

1.3 Research Objectives

1. To identify and describe for the causes of self-dissatisfaction in the main character
2. To analyze how self-dissatisfaction is formed and its evidence in the main character's characterization.

1.4 Use of Study

The use of this research is to elaborate on how self-dissatisfaction is experienced within the main character's mind.

1.4.1 Practical Use

This research can increase public awareness about self-dissatisfaction and its effects to those exposed by it. This can provide insight and deeper knowledge to the public about the meaning and its subsequent result in self-dissatisfaction.

1.4.2 Theoretical Use

The information written in this study can be used by other researchers to analyze novels with the same object or topic. In this study the author wants to provide a utilization of the theory that will be used to analyze the novel *Carrie* by Stephen King.

1.5 Scope of Study

Based on the research background, the writer will limit her analysis based on several considerations. Which is describing self-dissatisfaction implication by applying Hurlock's theory of self-dissatisfaction, by explaining how it is formed in Carrie and its effect in the main character's behavior.