

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Previous Study

In this chapter the researcher has chosen several studies that are related to this current research. The previous studies are important and needed as give the researcher additional insight and knowledge for the researcher in conducting the analysis. The studies that are chosen are under the same topic and issue as this current research. Those studies discuss about mental health, especially Borderline Personality Disorder in literature, which requires observation and analysis.

2.1.1 Alaska's Borderline Personality Disorder as Reflected in John Green's *Looking for Alaska* by Atmaja (2019)

The first previous study used by the researcher is a study by Atmaja in 2019 entitled *Alaska's Borderline Personality Disorder as Reflected in John Green's Looking for Alaska*. Atmaja, as the researcher, at that study discussed about the Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD). Specifically, Atmaja analyzed the main character in a novel entitled *Looking for Alaska* to see whether or not the character suffered from BPD. Thus, the study aims to explain the way the novel described BPD and the way the character copes the conflict due to BPD. To analyze that, Atmaja used descriptive qualitative method to explain the findings found based on the Theory of Personality by Sigmund Freud. Besides using Sigmund Freud's personality theory, the researcher of that study also used Structuralism theory. By implementing the theory, the researcher found that Alaska's personality, in the novel, fulfills all three cores of BPD's characteristics. It showed that Alaska suffered from BPD (Atmaja, 2019). That study is used as it uses

similar theory and takes similar topic of discussion as this current research. The researcher can get insight, idea, and ways on how to analyze and describe the existence of BPD that is suffered by the character in a work. Even though that study is under the same topic with this current research, there is also a difference between that study with this current research. That study aims to find and analyze the way the main character, Alaska, coped and solved all conflict in her personality as well as the way Alaska showed the characteristics of BPD. Meanwhile, in this current research, the researcher aims to describe the experience of Alaska in suffering the characteristic of BPD and the causes of Alaska's BPD. Hence, with the similarity of topic and discussion, the researcher chose Atmaja's study as the first previous study.

2.1.2 Borderline Personality Disorder in Drama *August: Osage County* (2007) by Tracy Letts by Yovenescha & Anwar (2019)

A study conducted in 2019 by Yovenescha and Anwar is used as the second previous study. The study entitled *Borderline Personality Disorder in Drama August: Osage County* (2007) by Tracy Letts. In the study, the researchers aim to analyze as well as expose deeply the issue of Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD). The discussion will be done by seeing the representation of BPD in the main character in a play, or drama, entitled *August: Osage County*. Furthermore, the researchers also has a purpose to see the contribution of plot, setting, and character in the play in revealing and describing BPD. To analyze that, the researchers used Freud concept of neurosis. The finding found that the main character in the play suffered from BPD, and it can be proved through the way the character showed character's inappropriate emotional reactions as well as highly self-destructive behaviors (Yovenescha & Anwar, 2019). Considering that, the researcher of this current research sees that the study has similarity related to the topic, discussion, and purpose of the study. It can be beneficial to the current researcher in gaining

understanding and knowledge related to the way to conduct an analysis about BPD. However, this current research focuses only on the depiction and causes, meanwhile the study by Yovenescha and Anwar focuses on representation and contribution of intrinsic element.

2.1.3 Theodore Finch's Borderline Personality Disorder in Jennifer Niven's *All the Bright Places* by Rachman (2019)

The third previous study used is a study in 2019 by Rachman entitled Theodore Finch's Borderline Personality Disorder in Jennifer Niven's *All the Bright Places*. By using descriptive qualitative method, the study by Rachman aims to focus on textual information and interpretation of the literary work. The novel entitled *All the Bright Places* is used to study the way Theodore Finch, the main character, portrayed the symptoms of Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD). The study wants to see the characteristics of BPD found in Finch as well as the factors that caused him having the disorder. To analyze that, Rachman used the theory by Stern about the causes of BPD. Rachman also used the theory from American Psychiatric Association (APA) related to the symptoms of BPD. Different with other two previous studies that used the theory of Freud, the study by Rachman used the theory by APA and Stern. By using those theories, the study found that Finch showed that he suffered from BPD. It could be seen through his behavior, such as emotional, uncontrolled anger, instability relationship, fear of being abandoned, as well as tendency of suicide (Rachman, 2019). Considering that, the researcher of this current research saw that it is beneficial to use that study as the previous study as it has the same aims with this current research. The difference is that study used novel as the object of analysis, meanwhile this current research used film as the object of analysis.

1.2 Psychological Approach

This research focuses on discussing the issue of psychology, which is Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD). Hence, the approach of psychology is used as the first approach of this current research. The approach of psychology by Freud is used because Freud in his approach believed that psychological approach is beneficial in seeing the psychological interpretation (Guerin, 1966). There are several sub-fields of psychology, namely clinical, human development, health, sports, cognitive behavior, and social behavior (Masyhur, Fithratullah, & Kasih, 2023). It allows the researcher to afford many profound clues that is able to solve and reveal a literary work's thematic and symbolic mysteries (Guerin, 1966). In other words, by using the psychological approach, the researcher can reveal and describe the psychological issue found in the work that is portrayed through certain characteristics (Hall, 1954).

Psychological approach is also well-known as an approach that can help the researcher to understand the characterizations in a work (Hall, 1954). It means that, the issue and thematic problem that occur in the work can be understood and revealed by the researcher. Furthermore, the psychological approach is also beneficial to be used as the fundamental theory of this current research because psychology and literature are relatable. Psychology refers to the behavior of human, meanwhile literature refers to the way humans behave (Golan, Gordon, Fichman, & Keinan, 2018). Hence, the researcher is able to focus on the aspect of behavior of the main character in the work by using the psychological approach.

1.3 Borderline Personality Disorder

Lastly, the researcher also used Borderline Personality Disorder theory to reveal the existence of BPD in the film. The theory is used as this research aims to see the portrayal of BPD in a film entitled *Welcome to Me*. The theory of BPD that is taken is from American Psychiatric Association (APA). Specifically, from the book Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental

Disorder (DSM) that is published by APA. According to APA in DSM, Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) is a pattern of instability in terms of interpersonal relationship, self-image and self-image (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). BPD is also marked and caused impulsivity (American Psychiatric Association, 2013).

In most cases, most of the sufferer of BPD can make frantic efforts in order to avoid real and/or imagined abandonment (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). It makes the sufferer has a fear of being abandoned or left. The fear that causes them to have profound changes in self-image, affect, cognition, and behavior (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). Specifically, written below are the characteristics or symptoms of BPD according to DSM by APA:

1. Frantic efforts to avoid real or imagined abandonment and chronic feelings of emptiness
2. A pattern of unstable and intense interpersonal relationships characterized by alternating between extremes of idealization and devaluation and affective instability and anger
3. Identity disturbance that is marked and persistence by unstable self-image
4. Impulsivity at least in two areas that has self-damaging potential, which are spending, sex, substance abuse, reckless driving, and binge eating.
5. Recurrent suicidal behavior gestures, threats, or self-mutilating behavior

1.4 Borderline Personality Disorder's Causes

According to a book by National Institute of Mental Health (NIH), the researchers found several factors that can be the cause of BPD suffered by the sufferer. The factors can be genetic, environmental, as well as social factors (National Institute of Mental Health, 2006). All those factors have possibilities in increasing the risk of BPD and developing BPD. The factors are written below.

1. Family History

Usually, the sufferer of BPD, according to NIMH, suffered BPD because the sufferer is close with all family members (National Institute of Mental Health, 2006). The family members can include parent or sibling. The closeness can increase and develop the risk of BPD as the person will emerge the fear of being left or abandoned by the family members.

2. Brain Structure and Function

The sufferer of BPD is found having structural and functional changes in the brain, especially in the control impulses and emotion regulation area (National Institute of Mental Health, 2006). Researchers found that biologically, there are changes that make people genetically become the sufferer of BPD.

3. Environmental, Cultural, and Social Factors

Last factor possibility that can be the cause of BPD is environmental, cultural, and social factors. It is found that most of the sufferer of BPD has traumatic experience in the life events, which can be abuse, abandonment, or hardship during the childhood (National Institute of Mental Health, 2006). The childhood trauma makes the sufferer suffered BPD and exposed to be unstable (National Institute of Mental Health, 2006).