

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Humans tend to have different feelings and expressions expressed in literature. Nevertheless, literary works can portray as well as bridge the writer and his imagination so that both the writer and the creator can communicate their imagination. According to Klarer (2004), literature is a written expression that includes additional adjectives such as “aesthetics” or “artistic” to distinguish them from other texts, for instance, newspapers, legal documents, and telephone books. Literary includes novels, prose, poetry, and drama.

Films and literary works are two different things but intend to create grandeur in human imagination and understanding. Adaptations of literary works in cinema come from several sources, such as novels, music, and theater (Ramrao, 2016). Effendi (1986: 239) in Sugianto, Mingkid, and Kalesaran (2017) stated that the film is a work of cultural art that combines the results of technology such as photography and audio recording into one, equipped with several supporting arts such as fine arts, literary theater, music, and architectural arts. Films are classified into genres based on various factors such as storyline, who the director is, and what audiences expect to see (Razali, 2010). The film genre includes romance, horror, thriller, action, and more. In filmmaking, the theme taken is not far from our portrait in society. Thus, each genre of film can be inspired or even adapt the psychological aspects of an individual. Literary work that includes psychological elements causes the relationship between literature and psychology. Researchers

or critics experience various psychological conditions when reading and responding to literary work when considering psychology's concepts. To analyze the characters in a literary work, a researcher or critic must understand various concepts, theories, and psychological terms (Wiyatmi, 2011).

Every individual has different personality. Therefore, this personality will affect each individual to determine how they behave, think, and communicate with others. However, a personality disorder that will influence a person's mentality could occur. This personality disorder includes in the psychological discussion. People are physically healthy because they are not exposed to any illness they can recognize with their eyes. It is different with mental health that may not be entirely healthful. One of this dysfunction is known as a psychopathic disorder. Someone who has this disorder is very dangerous in society because their physical appearance will be the same as other individuals to identify. According to Saleh (2018), people with psychopathic mental disorders experience an obstruction in their psyche.

Someone with this disorder has difficulty adapting to the social rules that apply to their environment. A psychopath will not care about anything but himself. They can do anything to realize their desires that are always right. They will not care about who or whatever object they are targeting to hurt (Suslanah, 2015: 26). Some of the characteristics of a psychopath can be identified, such as being good at lying, manipulative, without compassion, and having no remorse after hurting others. The traits of a psychopath, as said by Dr. Hervey Cleckley in his book entitled *The Mask of Sanity* (1941) quoted by Suslanah (2015: 28), a

psychopath is a person who is charming, pleasant, intellectual, impressive, and good at seducing. Another trait is that they are generally very academically intelligent. However, it is undeniable that there is also negative side like irresponsibility and self-destruction to others without feelings. For example, they often threaten to kill people when their love relationships do not work out.

In the film, some characters play their roles to bring the story. A character who plays the role of a psychopath is fascinating to discuss because it can connect psychology with film as the development of literary works. Many great works deal with this psychopathic topic. The author is very interested and used *The Bad Seed* (2018), a film by Rob Lowe, as the object of analysis.

The Bad Seed (2018) tells the story of a nine-year-old little girl named Emma Grossman. She lived with her father, David Grossman, while her mother has died. Emma has an aunt named Angela. Emma is described as a brilliant, ambitious perfectionist and does not like to be defeated. She is willing to do anything to reach her goals without fear. Emma's character is seen as very innocent, sweet, and just like a child her age. However, she has a personality disorder known from the beginning of the film where she stood near a window with a flat face watching a cat that drowns and is about to die.

When she is defeated by her classmate, Milo Curtis, who got a medal from his school as the best student, Emma was emerged to harm Milo and kill him on the cliff. Since that incident, Emma's teacher has wanted to interrogate the case by asking Emma and her father. Chloe, the babysitter, hired by her father and Angela, discovered Emma had killed Milo. Her suspicious father inquired about

what happened, but she always denied the statement under various lies. She killed Mrs. Ellis (her teacher), who interrogated Milo's death. Emma placed a wasp's nest in her car to cover up her crime and prevent the teacher from investigating more about the case. Her father became increasingly suspicious and took her to a psychiatrist to determine if his daughter had a mental disorder. However, with Emma's intelligence, she managed to deceive the psychiatrist. It turned out because she hates Chloe, she finally kills the babysitter. Emma told her father about her evil deeds at the end of the film. Unfortunately, Emma reversed the facts and manipulated other people to kill her father.

The author used Rob Lowe's film, *The Bad Seed* (2018), as the data source in this research due to the author's interest in watching the film and the sign of psychopathic behavior reflected in Emma's main character. The author believes that personality disorder experienced by the main character can analyze to identify the types and characteristics of a person who suffers from psychopathic behavior. Therefore, we can obtain knowledge to recognize this personality disorder and overcome problems related to psychics.

1.2 Problems of the Study

Based on the explanation above, the author formulated the problems described as follows:

1. What type of psychopathic behavior is reflected on the main character Emma in *The Bad Seed* (2018) film?
2. How are the characteristics of psychopathic behavior found on the main character Emma in *The Bad Seed* (2018) film?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the problems that the author proposed, here are the objectives of this research:

1. To identify the type of psychopathic behavior found on the main character Emma in *The Bad Seed* (2018) Film.
2. To analyze the characteristics of psychopathic behavior on the main character Emma in *The Bad Seed* (2018) Film.

1.4 Limitation of the Study

Several aspects can be analyzed based on this film. Nonetheless, the author made a limitation to conducting this research. The author analyzed and focused on Emma as the main character in *The Bad Seed* (2018) film, who experiences psychopathic behavior, how the main character behaves to each other roles analyzed by the author.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This research is expected to provide a new understanding to the author about the analysis of psychopathic behavior to a film based on existing theories. Hopefully, this research can help those interested in psychology increase their knowledge about this field and enlarge the broader literature scope. Last but not least, by this research, the author expects to attract readers' passions to those interested in analyzing the same research topic.



CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE, CONCEPTS, AND THEORIES

2.1 Review of Related Literature

The author presented the previous researchers based on this study's issue.

They are:

First, Mutmainnah's (2017) thesis, *Psychopathic by The Main Character in Movie "Maniac."* The author analyzed Frank's main character in *Maniac* film, who experienced psychopathic behaviors. The researcher applied a descriptive qualitative method to collect and examine the data. Using the theory from Robert D. Hare and Sigmund Freud, the author discovered diverse characteristics of Frank's psychopathic disorder such as glib and superficial, lack of remorse, impulsive, poor behavior control, and lack of empathy. Following this, the author additionally found the determinants of the main character becoming a psychopath. His vast desires of the id and his trauma, while he was in childhood, caused the functions of his superego to experience obstruction and break its function. The ego effects are due to the magnitude of the influences of Frank's id.

The research above has several similarities with the author's research, such as: has the same topic, psychopathic behavior. Both kinds of research analyzed the main character through the characteristics of a psychopath and film as the data source. The difference between this research is that the author also analyzed the types of psychopathic behavior.

A thesis entitled *Psychopathy in Thomas Harris' Hannibal Rising* by Rakhmadhani (2016). The author examined focusing on the main character Hannibal Lecter in the novel *Hannibal Rising* endured psychopath behaviors. The researcher used the psychology approach to collect and analyze the data. She stated that some characters show some psychological indications in the novel that happens in real life. Through the approach, she discovered several psychopath symptoms portrayed on Hannibal: adolescent antisocial behavior, impulsive behavior, poor behavior control, lack of empathy and judgment, lack of remorse and guilty feeling, lacking goals, compulsive lying, and manipulation. She also found there are also explanations of Hannibal becoming a psychopath because of the tragic childhood memories and the revenge.

Based on the explanation above, there are also similarities and differences between this research and Rakhmadhani's (2016) thesis. The similarities are that both types of research analyzed the main character and the symptoms of psychopathic behavior. Whereas, the differences are the data source of the research and the problems where Rakhmadhani's thesis used novel and only focusing on analyzing the symptoms also what factors causing the main character to become a psychopath. Nevertheless, in this research, the author investigated the types of a psychopath.

An article entitled *An Analysis of Psychopathic Traits Towards Annie Wilkes in Misery Novel By Stephen King* written by Yadriha and Mariana (2019) used the qualitative method to analyze Annie Wilkes as the main character who underwent psychopathic tendencies in this article. They use the theory from Hare

(1991) and determine eleven psychopathy traits recognized by the main character. They found the characteristics: shallow emotions, lack of empathy, egocentric, lack of concern for others, impulsivity, poor behavior control, has an attractive outward appearance, has no fear, high possessive feelings for personal satisfaction, have a cruel social relationship with others, and antisocial.

By comparing the research above, there are some similarities and differences with the author's research. In the first similarity, the research analyzed psychopathic behavior reflected by the main character. The second similarity, both of the research and what have done by the author, discussed the main character's psychopathic characteristics. In contrast, the study conducted by Yadriha and Mariana (2019) used a novel as the data source. Another difference is that the author analyzed what types of psychopaths portray by the main character.

2.2 Concepts

This section demonstrated particular concepts to understand and strengthen the research. The concepts used are the representation of psychology, psychology and literature. A psychopath and the last one is ASPD and Psychopath.

2.2.1 Psychology

Psychology is the study of the soul. The term psychology comes from the Greek, namely psychology, consisting of "psyche" and "logos." Psyche means soul, and logos implies knowledge. If further discussed, the word "*logos*" is easier

to understand thoroughly. Still, the term “*psyche*” or soul is challenging to explain because it is abstract and difficult to identify by the senses (Saleh, 2018: 2).

Walgito (2004:10), quoted by Wiyatmi (2011), suggests that psychology is a science that studies behavior or activities on the human psyche. In psychology, behavior and actions in individuals or organisms are considered a result of stimulus or stimuli that affect the individual or organism.

2.2.2 Psychology and Literature

Literature is one of the essential means to explain human nature. We can observe the writer’s life, objectives, and perceptions that shaped the readers. Psychology in literature is interdisciplinary learning that helps us learn other disciplines such as sociology, politics, economy, philosophy, and many more. The literature study may also apply psychology as its analysis method (Mustofa, 2020). Literary work includes expressions and feelings that the author adds into his work arranged as attractively as possible so that literature is a work of art. These expressions are influenced by the atmosphere around the writer and based on his individual experiences. Thus, this is related to psychology that cannot distinguish from daily life (Guerin, 1979: 1 in Meiliana, 2020: 10).

The psychological approach immediately guides the substantial amplification of the meaning of literary works. It shows us how the studies of the writer’s creativity. Since the literature adapts several phenomena in our daily lives, the writer reflects it in the development of characters in a literary work. This case caused the characterization of a role in a story to be analyzed using

psychological principles discovered in human behavior to society (Sangidu, 2004: 30 in Meiliana, 2020: 12).

2.2.3 Psychopath

Psychopaths can be identified through their type of personality disorder and behavioral characteristics. According to Hare (1993), psychopathy refers to a personality disorder in which a person is a social predator mastering to use their charm, manipulate their victims, and do cruel things. In addition, they lack empathy, doing whatever they want even if it violates the prevailing social norms in their environment without showing the least amount of guilt or remorse cited in Crego and Thomas (2014). A psychopath tends to encounter the image of a cold, heartless, and inhuman being who can have high verbal intelligence with no emotional intelligence and is hardly an expert in doing manipulating other people by playing their emotions. Psychopath indicates someone has an imbalance or fails to arrange impulsive constructive and destructive in itself. It is commonly triggered by pressures or emotional trauma (Nuraeni, 2016 in Arimawati, 2020: 10).

2.2.4 Psychopath and Antisocial Personality Disorder

Antisocial Personality Disorder (ASPD), described by de Farias *et al.* (2013), is a personality disorder in which a person habitually violates norms, lacks guilt, difficult to maintain a relationship, and easily manipulates situations or circumstances to ignore the rights of others (Vrisaba & Dianovinina, 2019).

ASPD is often associated with other terms such as psychopathy. This is because ASPD can manifest and describe different traits that a person with ASPD may have that lead to the same diagnosis (Raspolich, 2021). The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) includes psychopathic specifiers from ASPD traits, which are emphasizing low anxiety, low withdrawal, and attention-seeking, reflecting a socially strong interpersonal style coupled with high-stress immunity.

2.3 Theories

This research applied Millon and Davis's (1998) theory regarding psychopathic types. Meanwhile, to examine the characteristics of psychopathic behavior on Emma, this research used the DSM-5 (2013) (*Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*).

2.3.1 The Types of Psychopath Behavior

While there are as many personality differences in psychopaths as there are in ordinary people, here are some common subtypes according to Millon and Davis (1998: 162):

1. The Unprincipled Psychopath

The unprincipled psychopath is related to the narcissistic personality. These psychopaths display an arrogant sense of self-worth, do not care about the welfare of others, and behave fraudulently. They expect special recognition and consideration without assuming mutual responsibilities. These narcissistic

psychopaths act as if they have no principles other than exploiting others for their gain. They are skilled in social influencing, able to feign innocence, and are adept at deceiving others with charm and cunning. Relationships only last as long as this type of psychopath has something to gain. People are dropped without thinking about the suffering they may experience due to irresponsible psychopathic behavior.

2. The Disingenuous Psychopath

The behavior shown in this type can be characterized by social skills and hospitality. Although they are friendly and kind to acquaintances, they are unreliable, impulsive, manipulative, and may resent family members or colleagues. Prominent among these disingenuous psychopaths are directions to be contriving and plotting; to apply a dishonest approach to life; and be insincere, calculating, and shady. In addition, they find satisfaction in the pressure they create. When offended or in a situation of embarrassment, these psychopaths can be quickly provoked into anger, expressed in a vengeful manner.

3. The Risk-Taking Psychopath

This type of psychopath often takes risks for himself just because of the excitement rather than material gain or reputation for the deeds done. The risk-taking psychopath is fearless and unaffected by situations that many people perceive as dangerous or frightening. Unlike many psychopaths, whose primary motivation is pleasure and revenge, this psychopath attaches great importance to the excitement and stimulating dangerous adventures. They are thrill-seekers, easily fascinated with opportunities to prove their mettle or open up their

possibilities. The factors that make them psychopaths are their attitude's unreliable and irresponsible actions.

4. The Covetous Psychopath

Psychopaths with this type feel that life is not giving them their rights, deprived of love, support, or material things. They believe that others have taken their share and have never been given a good life. Thus, they have envy and desire to take it back. Through acts of theft or destruction, they compensate themselves for the emptiness of their lives. These psychopaths ignore their violation of the social order. Despite the achievements, they are still jealous until they manifest greed. For the most part, they are very selfish and self-indulgent. Therefore, this psychopath never achieves a deep sense of satisfaction.

5. The Spineless Psychopath

These psychopaths commit violent acts to overcome their fear. It is meant to show that they are not anxious or weak and will not surrender to external pressure or intimidation. They assume that other people are strong, aggressive, sadistic enemies. Instead, they are seen as untenable and powerless targets. Experiencing panic, the spineless psychopath tries to prevent unavoidable situations by taking the most feared action as a form of preventative attack. This mechanism not only serves to overcome their fears but also serves to distract and impress the public and false self-claim.

6. The Explosive Psychopath

This psychopath is characterized by a lack of control over their anger and frightening attacks on others. Feeling frustrated or threatened, these psychopaths respond in an unstable manner, confusing others with sudden changes, saying unforgivable things, and hitting their victims painfully. When explosive psychopaths face repeated failure, embarrassment, and frustration, their control can quickly become overrun by hatred. Once released, that anger refers to memories and emotions pouring uncontrollably to the surface, breaking up into wild, irrational, and uncontrollable anger.

7. The Abrasive Psychopath

Abrasive psychopaths act overtly and directly controversial. For abrasive psychopaths, everything and everyone is an object for releasing their feelings. More than just general anger, this psychopath is intentionally violent and antagonistic. Abrasive psychopaths have endless disagreements with other people, magnifying every little friction into a complicated problem.

8. The Malevolent Psychopath

This psychopath is revengeful and skeptical of other people. The main psychopathic characteristic of this type is sadistic actions that reflect the desire for revenge. They show no guilt or remorse for their violent acts, but instead, they show arrogant contempt for others. They are aggressive and seek to put more pressure than tolerance on their target. They do not lose self-awareness of their actions and continue onward until their revenge and destruction may be achieved.

9. The Tyrannical Psychopath

Tyrannical psychopaths are associated with bullying, often accusing violently and destructively. This variant derives a unique sense of satisfaction from forcing its victims to obey them. Tyrannical psychopaths selectively choose their victims, identifying individuals who are likely to surrender rather than respond with violence. This psychopath uses violence as a means to inspire terror and intimidation. Considerably of what drives tyrannical psychopaths is the fear that others might recognize their inner insecurities and low self-esteem.

10. The Malignant Psychopath

Psychopaths belonging to this type are characterized by distrust, hatred, and envy towards others. These traits are a ruthless desire to defend themselves for memories with cunning revenge or hurting others. In contrast to the further subtypes, malignant psychopaths find that their attempts to abuse and torment others only encourage people to incur more hostility and harsh punishments. This psychopath is afraid of losing self-determination; their fantasies of persecution are filled with fear of being forced to obey authority, being soft and supple, and tricked into giving up their self-determination.

2.3.2 The Characteristics of Psychopath Behavior

A psychopath is no longer seen as a disorder causing psychological harm to its bearer but also to society. Consequently, psychopathy has become associated with ASPD (Antisocial Personality Disorder) (Völlm & Filho, 2020).

According to DSM-5 (2013), the following are pathological personality traits of ASPD/psychopath described by DSM-5 (2013):

1. Manipulativeness

The psychopath's skill in lying then gives rise to another ability, specifically manipulation. After studying other humans, psychopaths are experts at manipulating and using people's emotions against them. Generally, they use this ability to make their victims feel confused and not think clearly. In other words, a psychopath manipulates their victims psychologically and use their confusing emotions to trick the situation at hand (Verstappen, 2011).

2. Callousness

Psychopaths lack concern for the feelings of others. They know how to fake concern in some situations because they do not know how to be sympathetic. They also tend to be no emotional expression to perform anything wrong to others. They may act to apologize for what they have done, but they are not riddled with guilt at all. A psychopath may pretend to have regrets, but his true nature will not change (Verstappen, 2011).

3. Deceitfulness

Psychopaths are often dishonest and lie in situations. Lies are like living facilities for a psychopath who is used to living parasitically on the environment and society. Ordinary people would tremble, be afraid, or sweaty when lying, but for a psychopath lying is as easy as breathing. That is why in some cases, a

psychopath can deceive even fool a psychiatrist or even another psychopath (Verstappen, 2011).

4. Hostility

A psychopath demonstrates excellent self-control by pretending to be normal in their life. However, the lack of self-control is activated when they get angry in response to insults and elicit malicious or vengeful behavior, so they tend to get angry and willing to arise hostility. They also get mad when they feel humiliated, despised and when their victims do not reflect much sought-after admiration. Megalomania causes them to behave exactly how they want when they feel the need (Verstappen, 2011).

5. Risk-Taking

The DSM-5 (2013) states that psychopaths often engage in unsafe, risky, and potentially self-destructive activities. They will continue to do unnecessary activities without paying attention to the consequences. They tend to feel bored and initiate actions without thinking about the results just to fight boredom. They are depicted as not paying attention to one's limitations and denying the reality that their efforts are putting them at risk.

6. Impulsivity

They tend to act without analyzing the consequences or risks that occur furthermore. In a world ruled by psychopaths, whatever they want now is a good thing, and what they do not wish to is terrible. For illustration, if a person has money in his pocket and a psychopath wants it very much, theft is something they

see as good. In contrast, the victim is seen as evil because he has something that a psychopath desires (Verstappen, 2011).

7. Irresponsible

Psychopaths have no sense of responsibility because they feel like they never did anything wrong. They will blame others and even the world for the problems they are experiencing. Of course, this is very reasonable if psychopaths always assume they are the most perfect of the others. They also believe there is nothing wrong with their logic, and from this, they can conclude that whatever bad happens is due to someone else's fault (Verstappen, 2011).

