

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Research

Psychology is one of the popular topics in literature. It is part of human being in our life and still an interesting topic discussed until now. Psychology is a science that studies the behavior of inside and outside human beings both individuals and groups, in relation to the environment. (Muhibbin, 2001: 10). There is no people in the world who have not problem in their life. During someone's life, he/she might experience an event that becomes traumatic to them. The event can create a trauma because it might not happen as the way they expect to happen.

Trauma is defined as an emotional response to a distressing event, such as a physical attack, sexual abuse or natural disaster (American Psychological Association [APA], 2020). A traumatized person can feel a range of emotions both immediately after the event and in the long term. They may feel overwhelmed, helpless, shocked, or have difficulty processing their experiences. Trauma can also cause physical symptoms. According to International Journal of Law and Psychiatry, adverse environment such as childhood trauma, parent anti-sociality and low parental warmth can negatively influence a child's developing personality and emotions, affect them with the emergence of psychopathic traits. (Ireland et al., 2020)

Kartini Kartono states in her book entitled *Abnormal Psychology*, Psychopath is a form of mental disorder which is characterized by the absence of personal organization and integration so that a psychopath can never be morally responsible and there is always conflict with social and legal norms. (Kartono, 2000)

There are many psychopathic cases that occur around us. The thing about ordinary psychopaths is found only in psychology books self, but now people can read and enjoy in the literary works. However, there are background stories, or things that make an ordinary person turn to be a psychopath. For instance, if the person has experienced traumatic events in his/her life. The novel entitled *The*

Perfect Child by Lucinda Berry published in 2019 is one of a literary work that tells about trauma and psychopath.

Dr. Lucinda Berry is a trauma psychologist who deal in childhood trauma. She uses her clinical experience to create disturbing psychological thrillers, blurring the line between fiction and nonfiction. She enjoys taking her readers on a journey through the dark recesses of the human psyche (about.me, n.d.).

Dr. Lucinda Berry's background is as unique as her stories. She has a Ph.D. in clinical psychology, specializing in trauma and children. She is the Assistant Director of Evidence-based Practice at UCLA's National Center for Child Traumatic Stress. (Fantastic Fiction, n.d).

The *Perfect Child* novel by Lucinda Berry is a truly captivating, heart-wrenching, and spine-chilling book. It also has some triggers, like child abuse, animal abuse, psychological abuse. The *Perfect Child* is a fantastic domestic suspense novel that explores the depths of evil and resilience of the human spirit.

The *Perfect Child* novel is a story about a couple desperate to have a child of their own and the unsettling consequences of getting what they always wanted. Christopher and Hannah are a happily married surgeon and nurse with picture-perfect lives. All that's missing is a child. When Janie, an abandoned six-year-old, turns up at their hospital, Christopher forms an instant connection with her, and he convinces Hannah they should take her home as their own.

But Janie is no ordinary child, and her damaged psyche proves to be more than her new parents were expecting. Janie has trauma because of traumatic events from her past which make her acts out in increasingly disturbing ways, directing all her rage at Hannah. Unable to bond with Janie, Hannah is drowning under the pressure, and Christopher refuses to see Janie's true nature.

Hannah knows that Janie is manipulating Christopher and isolating him from her, despite Hannah's attempts to bring them all together. But as Janie's behavior threatens to tear Christopher and Hannah apart, the truth behind Janie's past may be enough to push them all over the edge.

This novel is in accordance with my term paper's title which is Trauma that Leads to Psychopath Traits on Janie in Lucinda Berry's Novel *The Perfect Child*. The story of this novel portrayed Janie as one of the main character who

experiences trauma that leads to emergence of psychopathic traits. And it make us think that a psychopath does not simply to be a psychopath. There are background stories, or things that make an ordinary person turn to be a psychopath. This is what makes me interested in analyzing this novel.

The reason why this novel is important to be analyzed as the object of the study because it reveals the psychological aspects that refer to how symptoms and conditions can impact a person's mental and emotional state of health and how the mind can influence a person and that is represented by Janie. She has trauma that leads to the emergence of psychopath traits. Therefore from the explanation above, it makes me considered that it is an interested things to be analyzed.

B. Identification of The Problem

Based on the background of the study above, I state that the problem begins when Chris and Hannah finally adopted Janie and bring her to their house. Since then, they begin to have a difficult times to take care of Janie because of her behaviour. Especially Hannah, Soon she realized Janie was intentionally manipulating her, trying to pull her and Christopher apart. The situation got even worse when Hannah discovered she was pregnant with a child of her own, a child she was finally able to carry to term. Furthermore, I identify that Janie's past has a big role in her trauma that leads to emergence of psychopath traits.

C. Limitation of The Problem

Based on the identification of the problem above, I limit the problem of the research on analysing the theme of my thesis through intrinsic approach, such as characterization, plot and setting, as well as an extrinsic approach which are psychology of literature, the concept of trauma and psychopath.

D. Formulation of The Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem above, the problem in this novel can be formulated to prove Trauma that Leads to Psychopath Traits on Janie in Lucinda Berry's Novel *The Perfect Child* become the assumption of this research. Therefore, the problems in this research are formulated as follows:

1. What are the characterization of the characters through showing methods

in Lucinda Berry's Novel *The Perfect Child*?

2. What are plot and setting in Lucinda Berry's Novel *The Perfect Child*?
3. What are reflection of trauma and psychopath concepts through intrinsic and extrinsic approaches?
4. Can the intrinsic and extrinsic approaches be used to reinforce the theme?

E. Objective of The Research

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the purpose of this research is to prove the existence of Trauma that Leads to Psychopath Traits on Janie in Lucinda Berry's Novel *The Perfect Child*. In order to reach this aim, I do several research stages as follows:

1. To analyze the characterization by using showing method to study the characters.
2. To analyze the plot and setting that can support the theme.
3. To analyze the theme by using the concept of trauma and psychopath.
4. To reinforce the theme by using the intrinsic and extrinsic approaches.

F. Method of The Research

In this research, I use qualitative research method through descriptive writing in analyzing the story. Qualitative research method is a method of research that has a purpose to understand the phenomenon which is experienced by the subject of the research such as behaviour, perception, motivation, action, etc. The research is holistically made using a description in the form of words and language at the specific natural context. (Moleong, 2005: 6).

Based on the definitions of qualitative research above, this part present and discusses the research method, which contains the unit of analysis data, research instrument, technique of analysis data and data analysis.

1. The Unit of Analysis Data

The unit that is analyzed in this research is *The Perfect Child* Novel by Lucinda Berry as the main source, and supported by several references, such as books and articles from internet that related to the study as a second source, associated with theory and concept.

2. Research Instrument

In collecting data, the writer uses herself as the instrument who tries to analyze accurately the phenomena relating with the research question reveals in this research.

3. Technique of Analysis Data

The technique which is used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis, the step of descriptive analysis are: (1) Reading the novel repeatedly, (2) Identifying the character that will be analyzed, (3) Taking notes of important thing both of primary and secondary data source, (4) Reading some related books and articles from internet to find out the theory, data and information needed. (5) Classifying and determining the relevant data.

4. Data Analysis

After collecting the data, the writer conducts the analysis as the following steps: (1) Analyzing the intrinsic elements of the novel, such as characterization, plot, and setting (2) Analyzing Janie's trauma in the form of Psychopath traits. The analysis is describing the symptoms of trauma and psychopath that Janie shows as the effect of her childhood trauma. (3) Giving the conclusion based on the result of the analysis.

G. Benefit of The Research

Based on method of the research above, this research is expected can accepted by readers, especially for the English Language and Culture Department students. Hopefully, this research encourages the students to study more about literature and gives some information which is concerning the novel through intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. The most important thing is the students will get more knowledge which they can analyze the novel by psychological perspective about related topic. This research is useful because it is written through different perspective using qualitative approach. It is expected that the result of this research can prove something new for further research and understood by the reader.

H. Systematic Organization of The Research

In accordance to the title of the research above, the order of the presentation is written as follows:

CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION

It consist of Background of The Problem, Identification of The Problem, Limitation of The Problem, Formulation of The Problem, Objectives of The Research, Benefit of The Research, and Systematic Organization of The Reseach.

CHAPTER II : FRAMEWORKS OF THEORIES

It consist of Intrinsic approaches, such as characterization, plot and setting. Extrinsic approaches, which are psychological theory, trauma and psychopath. And Literature Review, such as previous findings.

CHAPTER III : NOVEL *THE PERFECT CHILD* THROUGH INTRINSIC APPROACH

It consists of characterization of the characters, plot, and setting of the novel. The concepts above appear in the number of sub-chapters.

CHAPTER IV : TRAUMA THAT LEADS TO PSYCHOPATH TRAITS ON JANIE IN LUCINDA BERRY'S NOVEL *THE PERFECT CHILD* THROUGH EXTRINSIC APPROACH

It consists of a brief explanation of this chapter's content, analysis of the reflection of Janie's trauma that leads to emergence of psychopath characteristic through intrinsic elements. The concepts above must appear in the number of sub-chapters.

CHAPTER V : CONCLUSION

It consists of an evaluation from the previous chapters and the implication of the evaluated result. The chapters above are followed by references, scheme of the research, research poster, curriculum vitae, and other required attachment.