

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Problem

Parents are a man and a woman those who are married and are preparing to take on the duties of parenthood. Parents are two distinct individuals who enter life together, bringing with them their views and their daily habits. Parents are any person who is responsible for family or household duties, which in everyday life is referred to as "father" and "mother".

Mother is a term to honor the nature of women and as the only gender capable of bearing children. Being a mother is the desire of almost every woman in this world. However, being a mother is not easy, let alone being a good mother to her children and favored by her husband. The importance of a mother is especially evident in the birth of her child. A mother is a woman who marries and gives birth to a child. She is the first person to bond with the child and is central to the child's early development by having maternal traits that nurture, protect, and care for the child. In addition, parents are the first source in developing children's feelings of security or insecurity, of being loved or hated.

Abusive behaviour is a pattern or behaviour of violence in a relationship that is used to establish power and control over others in the form of threats, isolation, and intimidation emotionally, financially, sexually, and physically. One of the abusive behaviours is emotional abuse. According to (Theresa J Covert, 2020:8), emotional abuse is wanting to control the other person. As the abusers grow up, they come across situations in their lives that they cannot deal with healthily. So, they resort to controlling people or situations in order to deal with the discomfort they feel within themselves. Since people are unaware of the signs of emotional abuse, the abuser's behaviour and reactions go unchecked. They are reinforced over the years, causing them to believe this behaviour is the norm.

According to Gordon and Leach, emotional abuse is a type of relationship violence characterized by a pattern of behaviours that cause harm to an innocent individual. It occurs in families, corporations, health care institutions, religious and quasi-religious settings, etc. (Bob et al. (2010:24–26). On the other side, as Charles

Wenar concludes in his book *Developmental Psychopathology*, emotional abuse is a type of abusive behaviour that is difficult to identify because it leaves no visible scar on the victim. However, many experts believe emotional abuse is just as dangerous as any other type because it harms the victim's self-esteem (Wenar, 1994: 395).

According to (Covert, 2020, p. 8) in her book, emotional abuse is to control the other person. As the abusers grow up, they come across situations in their lives that they cannot deal with healthily. So, they resort to controlling people or situations in order to deal with the discomfort they feel within themselves. Since people are unaware of the signs of emotional abuse, the abuser's behaviour and reactions go unchecked. They are reinforced over the years, causing them to believe this behaviour is the norm. Aggression and Gaslighting are part of emotional abuse. Aggression is when an abuser does not obtain what they want or believe. They cannot control, and they can become aggressive.

According to (Covert, 2021, p. 6), gaslighting is when someone tries to question, deny the truth of, ridicule, contradict, play games with, and simply confuse their victim. There are several reasons why some people employ this technique. Some use it to gain control over their victim; others use the victim to meet emotional, physical, or financial needs, or for vengeful purposes, out of jealousy, or just for the fun of it.

Ashley Audrain's novel, "The Push," revolves around Blythe Connor, married to Fox Connor, and their two children, Violet and Sam. The birth of their first child, Violet, initially brings joy, yet Blythe senses something amiss. However, her concerns are dismissed, with everyone seemingly believing Violet's version of events over Blythe's instincts. Blythe grapples with a haunting trauma stemming from her own abandonment by her mother, Cecilia. Cecilia, in turn, faced turmoil when Etta, Blythe's grandmother married her second husband, following the tragic death of Etta's first husband. Etta's own struggles led her to commit transgressions against Cecilia, echoing the cycle of tragedy and hardship within their family. These adversities from generations past have led Blythe to feel gaslighted and emotionally strained, impacting her relationship with her children, particularly Violet. Blythe

grapples with complexities, feeling that everything post-Violet's birth has been a mistake, weighed down by the challenges that have haunted the women in her family.

This research will focus on the reflection of emotional abuse on the main character in *The Push* (2021) novel. This research will discuss how the main character suffer from emotional abuse of a mother who, after giving birth of her first daughter. This research also focuses some of the characteristics and symptoms found in Blythe Connor and Violet Connor characters based on emotional abuse especially aggression and gaslighting.

1.2. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background, I identify that the problem of this research is as the main character in *The Push* (2021) novel, Blythe Connor has experienced emotional abuse by her daughter, which makes her untrustworthy to those around her.

1.3. Limitation of the Problem

To limit this research, I analyze the main character, Blythe Connor in *The Push* (2021) novel who had emotional abuse from her daughter I used Emotional Abuse theory by Dr. Theresa J Covert. The research focuses on two types emotional abuse that happened to Blythe Connor.

1.4. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation about emotional abuse that have been explained as psychology literature. The result and discussion about this research are classified as follows:

1. How are the characters of the novel being analyzed?
2. How does the function of plot and setting the theme of the novel?
3. What are the concept of emotional abuse?
4. How are the intrinsic and extrinsic approaches being used in the novel?

1.5. Objectives of the Research

Based on the explanation of formulations of the problem, the objective of my research:

1. To analyzed the connection between the characterization and The Reflection of Emotional Abuse on The Main Character in Ashley Audrain's novel *The Push* (2021).
2. To analyzed the connection between the setting and The Reflection of Emotional Abuse on The Main Character in Ashley Audrain's novel *The Push* (2021).
3. To analyzed the connection between plot and The Reflection of Emotional Abuse on The Main Character in Ashley Audrain's novel *The Push* (2021).

1.6. Benefit of the Research

Based on objective of the research, this research can benefit as follows:

1. This research can make it easier for students who are interested in taking up research on the psychology of literature.
2. This research is expected to be useful for students in increasing their knowledge related to emotional abuse.
3. This research could help other researchers analyze psychological disorders emotional abuse.

1.7. Systematic Organizations of the Research

The structure of the term paper titled "The Reflection of Emotional Abuse on The Main Character in Ashley Audrain's novel *The Push* (2021)" is as follows:

CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of the phase of the research layout, such as the background of the problem, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, objective of the

research, and the systematic organization of the research.

CHAPTER 2 : THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter consist of the experts' theories study which I use in accordance with the title of the research and to analyse the research data, which are as follows: "Characterization", "Plot", "Setting", "Psychology of Literature", "Emotional Abuse", "Agression", and "Gaslighting".

CHAPTER 3 : RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter consists of information about the research method that is used to analyse and arrange the research based on time and location, research approach and method, and data analysis technique.

CHAPTER 4 : THE REFLECTION OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE ON THE MAIN CHARACTER IN ASHLEY AUDRAIN'S NOVEL *THE PUSH* (2021)

This chapter explains the research problem analysis elaborated by Dr. Theresa J Covert's Emotional Abuse theory.

CHAPTER 5 : CONCLUSION

It consists of an evaluation of the previous chapters and the implications of the evaluated results. The above chapters are followed by references, research, posters, curriculum vitae, and other necessary appendices.