

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Problem

Literature is when an author shares their thoughts, feelings, and experiences as a person or through characters in their writing. It's like a way for them to express what they've been through and what they care about (Wellek and Austin, 1956). In the realm of written expression, literature emerges as a powerful channel for authors to share their thoughts, emotions, and life experiences. It goes beyond being just stories or poems; literature is a profound mirror reflecting the complexity of being human. Through their words, authors take us on a journey into their inner worlds, allowing us a glimpse of their thoughts and the lives of the characters they create. It's like a shared exploration of the ups and downs of life, expressed through words on a page. As we dive into literature, we uncover a rich tapestry of human emotions, struggles, and joys. It's a shared narrative that connects us across time and cultures, making literature an invaluable window into the human story.

Presently, an array of literary genres is observable, with the novel standing out as a prominent literary form, enjoying sustained popularity and widespread availability. Then, what is a novel in today's terms? To put it simply and in a way that captures a key concept from various theories, we can say that, at a certain point in history, the novel became the type of writing where you can tell any story using any approach. You can describe countless different ways of living, whether they're real or imaginary, from a first-person or third-person perspective. Plus, you can use any writing style to showcase the variety of creative thinking (Mazzoni, 2017).

As the era progresses, novels undergo transformations, and an intriguing evolution is observed in the emergence of psychological novels. This phenomenon signifies the adaptability of novels to reflect the shifting interests and concerns of society. The psychology of literature can refer to various things. It can be the study of a writer's psychology, both as a type and as a unique individual. Alternatively, it can involve studying the creative process, understanding the psychological characteristics and patterns portrayed in

literary works, or even examining how literature affects its readers (Wellek and Austin, 1956).

The theme of domestic violence is prevalent in contemporary psychological novels. This significant motif reflects the complex dynamics explored in modern literature. Domestic violence and child abuse, both of which are pressing global issues. These topics are of paramount concern as they affect individuals and families worldwide. According to a report by the World Health Organization (WHO) (2021), nearly 1 in 3 women have experienced one or both of these forms of violence at least once in their lifetime. This figure underscores the alarming prevalence of domestic violence. Numerous reports and research have shown that violence from partners and sexual violence against women significantly contribute to mental health issues in women, particularly depression and thoughts of suicide. It also leads to problems related to sexual and reproductive health, injuries, and other long-term health conditions (WHO, 2021).

WHO estimates that more than 1 billion children—over half of the world's children—have experienced some form of violence. This includes physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, or neglect. Child abuse is a grave concern not only for the affected children but also for society as a whole (WHO, 2020). Violence against children has long-lasting effects on the health and overall quality of life of children, families, communities, and even entire nations. One significant consequence is that it can lead to harmful ways of coping and engaging in risky behaviors. Children who experience violence and other challenging situations are much more likely to engage in smoking, alcohol and drug abuse, and unsafe sexual behaviors. Additionally, they have higher rates of anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues, which can sometimes result in suicide (WHO, 2020).

Referring to a study by Negele and colleagues, they discovered that numerous people with persistent depression had undergone childhood trauma, which frequently included multiple traumatic incidents. This underscores the substantial influence of trauma on enduring depression and underscores the importance of addressing trauma during depression treatment. The research indicates that experiencing multiple traumas during childhood might have a strong connection to chronic depression (Negele et al., 2015).

The reason I analyze the novel is because it sheds light on a prevalent and concerning issue in our society—domestic violence. This problem persists, indicating that there is still a lack of awareness and understanding among people. I'm focusing on a novel, "Hide and Seek" by Andrea Mara, which deals with psychological genres with themes like domestic violence and trauma. The story is set in two-time periods, 2018 and 1985, in Rowanbrook, Dublin, Ireland. It follows Joana Stedman and her family, who move to Rowanbrook, only to discover that their new home was previously occupied by the Murphy family. The Murphys were seen as a happy family by their neighbors. Robbie Murphy was admired for his good looks, and Mary Murphy was known for being American. They had a daughter named Lily Murphy.

Their happiness takes a dark turn when Lily disappears while playing hide and seek and is declared dead after falling into a river. This tragedy triggers Joana's own childhood trauma, as she was once accused of killing her sibling. Joana becomes convinced that Lily is actually Lila, her adoptive sister whom she accidentally harmed because of her mother, Cynthia Kirk's, negligence. Through Joana's investigation, the novel shows how Cynthia treated her as a child, leading to her trauma and causing her to believe Lily is Lila. The story also reveals that Robbie Murphy, who was seen as an ideal husband, was abusive towards Mary and Lily. In the end, it's disclosed that Lily didn't disappear or die, but her death was faked to escape from Robbie's abuse.

In this study, titled "Domestic Violence Leads to Trauma Portrayed in The Hide and Seek Novel by Andrea Mara," focuses on domestic violence in the novel. It addresses the violence committed by Cynthia Kirk against her child, Joana Stedman. The study also explores how domestic violence can lead to trauma, particularly through Joana Stedman's character.

## **1.2. Identification of the Problem**

Considering the issues outlined earlier, I structured the analysis based on the novel "Hide and Seek." I carefully examined the story, identifying key themes such as family dynamics, disruptions in family functioning, domestic violence, trauma, and defense mechanisms. The theme of family is evident through the characters Joana and Mark Stedman. Dysfunctional family dynamics are depicted by characters Cynthia, Joana, Mary, and Robbie. Domestic violence

is another recurring theme involving characters Cynthia, Joana, Mary, and Robbie. Trauma is an essential element in Joana's character, while defense mechanisms come into play in both Joana and Mary's actions. Joana, who endured frequent domestic violence from Cynthia Kirk, developed deep-seated trauma from her past experiences. Coping with this trauma led her to hide her true self.

### **1.3. Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification of the problem above, I limit the problem of the research with theory and concepts as follows:

1. Through an intrinsic approach: characterization, setting and theme.
2. Through an extrinsic approach: the concept of domestic violence and trauma.

### **1.4. Formulation of the Problem**

Based on the limitations of the problem, the problem in this novel can be formulated the concept of the domestic violence as it is portrayed in the novel, and how Joanna tries to break away from the drunken, addicted, and manipulative mother who had abandoned her. Therefore, the problem in this research is formulated as follow:

1. How is domestic violence portrayed in "*Hide and Seek*" novel through plot, characterization and setting?
2. How is trauma portrayed in "*Hide and Seek*" novel through plot, characterization and setting?

### **1.5. Objectives of the Research**

Based on the formulation of the problem above, this study aims to explain the domestic violence and trauma reflected in "*Hide and Seek*" novel. To achieve this goal, I did several research stages as follows:

1. To analyze the portrayal of domestic violence in the novel "*Hide and Seek*" and its impact on the characters through plot, characterization and setting.

2. To analyze the portrayal of trauma in the novel "Hide and Seek" and its impact on the characters through plot, characterization and setting.

From this explanation, the problems that became my focus is the portrayal of domestic violence and trauma in the novel "*Hide and Seek*".

## **1.6. Benefit of the Research**

### **a. Academic Benefits**

The anticipated outcomes of this study aim to make valuable contributions to the advancement of literature studies, particularly in the realm of analyzing novels through a psychological lens. Furthermore, this research is anticipated to serve as a valuable academic resource concerning the concepts of domestic violence, and trauma. Additionally, it is expected to furnish data that can be utilized for future research endeavors.

### **b. Practical Benefits**

This research endeavors to demonstrate to society that novels can be examined through diverse disciplines, including the application of concepts from Psychology, such as domestic violence, and trauma. By employing these approaches, this study aims to unravel the underlying indications embedded within the novel.

### **c. Social Benefits**

The outcomes of this research are anticipated to enhance public awareness and understanding regarding domestic violence and trauma.

## **1.7. Systematic Organization of the Research**

In accordance with the aforementioned research title, the subsequent arrangement of the presentation is delineated as follows:

### **CHAPTER I**

### **: INTRODUCTION**

In this chapter, I explain about the background of the research, identification of the problem, limitation of the problems, formulation of the problem, objective of the research, method of the research, benefit of the research, and systematics of

the research about domestic violence and trauma.

**CHAPTER II : THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

This research consists of an intrinsic and extrinsic approach. The intrinsic element is a story that has a literary work from within. Such as, characterizations, settings, and others that have literary works from within. The extrinsic element is the concept of domestic violence and trauma.

**CHAPTER III : RESEARCH METHOD**

The research approach that is used in this research is qualitative. It consists of time and location, research approach and method, research object and data collection technique also data analysis technique. The information above has to appear in several parts.

**CHAPTER IV : DATA ANALYSIS**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEADS TO TRAUMA  
PORTRAYED IN THE HIDE AND SEEK NOVEL  
BY ANDREA MARA

In this chapter, I examine and analyze the intrinsic and extrinsic data which is the concept of domestic violence and trauma based on in this novel.

**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 their search, research poster, curriculum vitae, and other required attachment.