

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the background information and rationale for the study's conduct, which explains the reason this particular topic is chosen. This chapter explains several subheads, such as the background of the study, research question, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and finally scope and limitation. Focus and objectives of the study also give a limitation on how the study should be conducted. Another content of this chapter is to discuss the theoretical and practical significance of the study. Additionally, it outlines the key terms used throughout the study to ensure clarity for readers.

1.1 Background of the study

Psychoanalysis first introduced by Sigmund Freud. This condition is sometimes very difficult for humans to understand, because this happens in the human subconscious. In addition, Sigmund Freud (1920, p. 12) stated most of our mental activity occurs at the subconscious level. Freud believed that human thoughts, feelings, and behavior are influenced by unconscious conflicts that are felt outside our immediate awareness. Gerald C. Davison (2008, p. 12), stated psychoanalysis is focuses on unconscious processes as the main cause of human behavior. According to Sibi K J (2020, p. 2), "Psychoanalytic theory helps us understand personality and personality development in person". Psychoanalysis can analyze the traumatic experiences that are ones occur as a result of painful experiences by someone.

Trauma can be defined in a variety of ways based on the experiences of the individual. According to Sigmund Freud (1920, p. 29), trauma refers to an external excitation powerful enough to break through the protective shield of the mental apparatus, causing significant disruption and triggering defensive responses. Kolk (2014, p. 12) stated that trauma is an experience that is above a person's ability to cope. Kolk also argues that trauma affects the way people interact with the world. Someone who has a traumatic experience tends to have difficulty focusing on what they are going through, they will always be haunted by nightmares and also fear of their trauma or something related to their trauma. When talking about trauma, it is definitely never separated from Sigmund Freud

concept of trauma. According to Sigmund Freud (1920, p. 29) “We may, I think, tentatively venture to regard the common traumatic neurosis as a consequence of an extensive breach being made in the protective shield against stimuli.” This highlights that for Freud, trauma is an event that "pierces the protective shield" of the human mind against excessive external stimuli. Trauma is not only about the intensity of the event, but about the mental unpreparedness to anticipate or cope with the event.

Theory that used in this study is the psychoanalysis theory of traumatic neurosis by Sigmund Freud (1920) as the mayor theory to analyze the traumatic experience based on the theme of the novel *Girl in Pieces* (2016) by Kathleen Glasgow (2016). Sigmund Freud stated traumatic neurosis divides into several symptoms there are fixation, repetition compulsion, and anxiety. Fixation is a situation in which a person experiences a traumatic event remains tied to it and has difficulty moving forward. Repetition compulsion is a subconscious urge to repeat a traumatic experience, whether in the form of an action, dream, thought, or feeling that appears continuously. And anxiety a recurring, intense, often unexplained psychological reaction that arises from unresolved trauma.

According to Davison (2004, p. 225), “traumatic experiences are closely related to the desire to die”. It highlights that traumatic experiences have a very dangerous impact and have great potential to cause death impulses or self-harm. This study is limited by the situation of Charlie Davis’s traumatic experiences that influence the desire to die in a novel. This study used the second mayor theory of death instinct by Sigmund Freud for analyzing the emergence of the death instinct. Sigmund Freud (1920, pp. 47–49) stated that there is no specific category of death instincts, but there are several examples that are manifestations of death instinct including aggression, destructiveness, and suicide. Freud introduced two concepts there is "Eros" which means the life instinct that makes an individual seek pleasure, love, and lust. While the death instinct, or "Thanatos" is the desire to die and also self-harming behavior.

Death instinct could arise due to a form of emotional instability. In general, this concept reflects Freud's view of the existence of a problem between the drive to survive and the drive to die in humans. Sigmund Freud (1920, pp. 32–33)

discussed the unconscious as a significant domain in which these instinctual drives operate, influencing human behavior beyond conscious control argued that death instinct is our subconscious mind that controls our behavior that influenced by many desires. Freud (1920, p. 13) stated that psychoanalysis focuses on the human conscious and unconscious. This is related to our instinct and anxiety.

Psychological phenomena are often found in literary works such as novels, movies and other literary works. Psychological issues in novels are very interesting to analyze, because currently there are many novels that raise issues about mental health that can be used for learning. One of the literary works that can be used as a reference for viewing human psychological conditions is a novel entitled *Girl In Pieces* (2016) By Kathleen Glasgow. This literary work tells the story of the main character, Charlie Davis, she tried to recover after has a very painful life experience. Her father died in an accident, and she also lost her mother figure, was abandoned by her best friend, and she experienced violence and harassment which made her want to hurt herself.

Girl in Pieces was published in 2016. Taking place in a psychiatric hospital where Charlie founded and treated after an extended tragedy that happens to her. This novel not only highlights how Charlie struggle with her trauma and also how she tried to hurt and end her life, but tells the story of how Charlie tries to heal from the trauma. *Girl in Pieces* is a deep story about struggle, hope, and the strength to fight darkness. Kathleen Glasgow perfectly describes the emotions of adolescence and invites readers to reflect on the importance of sharing and seeking help in dealing with mental health problems (Glasgow, 2016).

Before this study, there are a studies that used the same theory but with different data and data source or the same data but with different approach. One of them is entitled *The Main Characters Non-Sucidial Self-Injury In Kathleen Glasgow's Girl In Pieces* by Gantina Sitepu (2020) these study used the same data but a different theory and approach. The second is entitled *Death Instinct Manifested Through Passive Aggressiveness and its Social Effect in Melville's "Bartleby the Scrivener"* by Nestiami Hutami (2017) these study used the same theory but the different data. The last is entitled *The Effect of Traumatic*

Experience on Personality Types in the Novel Girl in Pieces by Chrissy Oktavian (2021) these study used the same data but the different theory and approach.

This study focused on the traumatic experiences by the main character and also how her traumatic experience influences the emergence of the death instinct in the novel *Girl in Pieces* by Kathleen Glasgow. On the other hand, the previous studies focused on traumatic experiences affecting the personality type of the main character. Many previous studies analyzed the emergence of trauma in the main character and how it affects her daily life. This study conducted to provide a new phenomenon from previous studies because it has different combination theory and data so that it can provide a broader understanding of psychoanalysis.

The writer is interested in analyzing the novel *Girl in Pieces* because it presents rich depictions of traumatic neurosis experienced by the main character, Charlie Davis. This novel can be analyzed using Sigmund Freud's theory of traumatic neurosis to identify the symptoms of trauma reflected in Charlie's behavior. It can also be examined through Freud's Death Instinct theory to understand her destructive actions as consequences of unresolved trauma. Thus, this study aims to examine how her traumatic experiences influence her desire to die, and to explore how psychoanalytic theory can represent trauma in literary works.

1.2 Research Questions

1. What are the symptoms of traumatic neurosis experienced in the main character Charlie Davis?
2. How do traumatic experiences influence the emergence of the Death Instinct?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objective of this study is to analyze and identify the symptoms of traumatic experiences and how the trauma influenced the emergence of the desire to die in the novel *Girl in Pieces* by Kathleen Glasgow. This study focused on the main character Charlie Davis with her painful life experiences. Furthermore, this study explains several symptoms of traumatic neurosis and also several manifestations of death instinct based on Charlie's life.

1.4 Significance of the Study

From the beginning to the end, this study used traumatic neurosis theory and death instinct theory by Sigmund Freud that occurs in Charlie Davis in the novel *Girl in Pieces* by Kathleen Glasgow. The writer hopes that this study will have theoretical and practical significance.

1. Theoretical Significance

The writer hopes that this study can support the theories on the topic discussed, especially traumatic neurosis and death instinct. By providing a detailed analysis of a specific literary text, this study aims to contribute to the ongoing dialogue in the fields of literary criticism, psychology, and trauma studies. Additionally, this study can offer insights into the psychological impact of trauma on individuals, particularly adolescents, and highlight the importance of addressing mental health concerns within literary texts.

2. Practical Significance

The writer hopes that this study will contribute to the understanding of psychoanalysis theory, specifically traumatic neurosis and death instinct theory by Sigmund Freud. By applying these theories to a literary text, this study aims to demonstrate the practical application of psychoanalysis concepts in literary analysis. Additionally, the writer hopes that this study will be a valuable resource for students, scholars, and readers interested in exploring the psychological depths of literature.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is to analyze the novel *Girl in Pieces* by Kathleen Glasgow. This study focused in the traumatic experience and the influence in the emergence the desire to die in the character Charlie Davis by applying theory of traumatic neurosis and death instinct by Sigmund Freud. The limitation of this study is that it only focused on the utterances and narration within the novel that reflect Charlie's behavior related to traumatic neurosis and the death instinct in Kathleen Glasgow's *Girl in Pieces*. This study intends to examine the psychological impact of trauma on a teenage girl and how it shows in her thoughts, behaviors, and emotional state. The analysis used traumatic neurosis and

death instinct theory by Sigmund Freud to provide clarification regarding the complicated relationship between trauma and the drive for self-destruction.