

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five subchapters. Those are background of the study, statements of the research problem, objectives of the study, significances of the study, scope and limitation of the study. Those items are explained below.

1.1 Background

Almost every people ever feel lonely; this kind of feeling exists unpredictably at every stage of age. It starts with kids, teenagers, or even mature people, feel lonely at least once in their lives. It shows that loneliness is a familiar feeling; notice that life is never flat. Sometimes we are surrounded by people, but also sometimes we are alone. Even if a human is a social creature and cannot live alone, some people choose to walk alone and have pressure when they engage with others. Feeling lonely is not always being alone; there is a possibility that someone can feel lonely even in a group of people. A community, workplace, or even in the family does not guarantee someone does not feel lonely.

Some people who experienced loneliness have a problem along with social interactions. Someone who feels lonely tends to avoid a crowd and find their way to gain their comfort zone. Mostly, they do not put a high interest in having social activities such as discussion, having a relationship, etc. Loneliness indicates that someone has a problem with interaction with other people. Also, loneliness commonly exists when there is a social

relationship change (Höllinger & Haller, 1990, p. 103). The feelings of being lonely are mainly caused by changes in the social environment that negatively or unintentionally affect the social connection.

Loneliness can exist in any situation, regardless of the background of people. In a case, people with low economic status sometimes struggle to build relationships because of their background as poor. Feeling different and not confident mostly becomes the reason why they have a hard time having a social connection. Also, mostly someone who experienced a new environment such as a new school, new workplace, or new social environment tend to feel lonely in the very first time. It is a prevalent feeling because these individuals are trying to observe their new environment. Besides that, someone who lived in an upper-class society also has a high risk of being lonely. According to John Cacioppo, millionaires and billionaires tend to feel lonely (Roberts, 2018). This condition happens because those people tend to think in many interpretations. For example, having a social relationship with someone which is not based on friendship, but they just expect other benefits such as material or social benefits.

To begin with, a novel entitled *Taken* that was written by Kelli Maine is interesting to be part of this study. Due to some considerations that the writer intends to conduct this analysis is that the novel has labelled as USA Today Bestseller in 2013, Nook Bestseller, and Indie Reader Top Ten Bestseller. This novel also portrays loneliness issues by the main character in an exciting way.

In this novel, *Taken's* loneliness issue is portrayed as a motivation for Merrick Rocha as the main character to have a severe relationship with Rachael Desalvo. Merrick Rocha is the billionaire and the owner of Turtle Tear (island and resort). He loves the resort just as much as Rachael. Merrick Rocha has very poor social skills & hard to share something in his mind. At the beginning of the story, the writer feels some strange attitudes toward Merrick Rocha as the male character. Firstly, he kidnapped a woman named Rachael Desalvo and brought her to a remote island. He felt something special and tried to persuade Rachael to have a relationship. However, Rachael is confused with his idea and still shocks to accept reality. At first, she tries to escape from him, but she gives up when she knows the way to escape is by helicopter.

Finally, she decides to find much information about all the problems and bravely communicates with him. As a result, she understands and realizes that there is something wrong with Merrick Rocha. Slowly, Merrick Rocha starts to tell her about his life and find his comfort zone. As a billionaire, he is very mysterious and hides all his privacy. He tries to hide the information about his family, love relationship, and perspectives about other people. As a result, Rachael understands that Merrick Rocha is lonely and tries to find his happiness.

The reasons for Merrick Rocha's loneliness and the impacts of his loneliness are suitable to be analyzed by Rubenstein and Shaver's loneliness theory as the main focus of this research. For example, his mother was

passed away, having lousy relation with his father and sister, being miss understood by his colleagues, being single for a very long time, and living alone. Besides that, the ways he copes his loneliness also become the consideration of the writer's decision to analyze the novel by using Rubenstein and Shaver's loneliness theory as the main focus of this research.

Many studies have discussed the issues of loneliness in literary works. The writer had found some writers that have made analyses with the same topic, which is loneliness. First, a thesis by Praswanta (2016) analyzed loneliness in Mari Asai's character in the novel *After The Dark* by Haruki Murakami. Second, a thesis by Su'ud (2011) analyzed Isabella Swan's character from the novel *New Moon* by Stephenie Meyer. Third, a thesis by Noy (2019) analyzed the character's loneliness from *The Boy in Striped Pajamas*. The last is from Purnama (2016), and he also researched loneliness from the short story *A Clean, Well-Lighted Place* by Ernest Hemingway. Based on the research above, many writers can reveal the reason or impacts of loneliness, which influence how the character's life.

1.2 Research Questions

Regarding the focus of the study, the main questions will be foregrounded as follows:

1. What are the factors of Merrick Rocha's loneliness portrayed in *Taken*?
2. How does Merrick Rocha overcome his loneliness portrayed in *Taken*?

1.3 The Objective of The Study

The writer tries to achieve objective as follows :

1. To find out the factors of Merrick Rocha's loneliness portrayed in *Taken*.
2. To analyze the way Merrick Rocha overcomes his loneliness issue portrayed in "*Taken*" by Kelli Maine.

1.4 Significance of The Study

This study is expected to be able to provide some theoretical and practical contributions. Those are:

1. Theoretically, this research is expected to give several advantages. First, this study is expected to provide an explanation how literary works are analyzed using psychological concepts. Second, this research can give a better understanding and development for the loneliness analysis, especially in *Taken* by Kelli Maine to be added as one of the literary studies that focus on loneliness theory.
2. Practically, the writer hopes that this study will help society have a better understanding of loneliness in real life or literary works. Also, this

research can be used as reference for other studies that use the same literary work or apply the same theory.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

1. The scope of this research revolves around the use of loneliness theory by Rubenstein and Shaver to analyze Merrick Rocha as the male character in a novel named "*Taken*" by Kelli Maine.
2. To focus the research, the writer limits this research to analyze loneliness issue only in the "*Taken*" by Kelli Maine, which answers the research question. This novel also covers the issues of love relationship, bad blood among family, and toxic social life. Those issues are interested to be investigated but the most important issue to be discussed is loneliness. Hopefully the other issue will be studied by other students of english department.