

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the study, statements of research problem, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and scopes and limitation of the study. Those are necessary to be explained because they provide important information about this study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature can take us to out of the track of weary routine, by leading us to understand something of that whole vast body of human living in which our day-to-day concerns have their place (Mayhead, 1965: 9). Related to previous statement, it means that literature is an image of life in the real world. It can make the reader or audience feel relieved to enjoy reading the literary works. So that literature and life have important relationship and cannot be separated.

Nowadays, many kinds of literary work can be seen such as novel, poetry, and drama. In this study, novel is chosen to be analyzed. According to Gill (1995: 77), novel is a world especially made in words by the author and one of the forms of literary works which has been popular for centuries, even today. It means that novel is expression of the author's feeling which is revealed by the words and it can be containing some information about history and social condition at that time.

The novel is written by Stephen King, *Misery*, is chosen as source of data in this study. Stephen King is one of the famous American authors. One of his

works entitled *Misery* is the one of bestseller novels in New York Times which is in horror genre. In addition, several of his works get awards as the winner and nominee in some categories. In 1987, he gets Bram Stoker Award in which is *Misery* as the winner of best novel. In 2000, *Riding the Bullet* is a nominee in long story category of International Horror Guild Awards. In 2002, he is the winner of Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2009, *Duma Key* is the winner in Superior Achievement in a Novel category of Horror Writers Association (www.stephenking.com/award.html).

Stephen King was born in Portland, in September 1947. His father left the family while Stephen was very young. His mother worked on several jobs which were having lower payment. After moving several times, the family moved to Durham, Maine, where Stephen's mother took care of her parents. Although Stephen's father was not a part of his life, he influenced him by leaving many fantasy horror fiction books. Stephen was a lonely child who wore thick glasses and was not good in the sports, he preferred to listening to horror stories on the radio, reading scary books, and watching science fiction movies. When he was young, he liked and enjoyed to read several books by authors such as John D. MacDonald, Ed McBain, Shirley Jackson, etc. (<http://www.stephenking.com/biography.php>).

Misery tells about an ex-nurse named Annie Wilkes who gets personality disorder namely psychopathy. She prefers to choose to live alone in her house which is really far away from the town. She is characterized as a woman who is very obsessive to her favorite author named Paul Sheldon, a writer of the novel of

Misery Chastain, her favorite novel. She rescues Paul Sheldon to her house because of car accident. He becomes her prisoner because she wants him to write the new book “Misery Chastain’s Return” only for her. It is because she does not want her favorite character in the novel named Misery Chastain died because she really likes her. So that she oppresses him to write the new book “Misery Chastain’s Return” only for her. She always brings ax and syringe to torture him. She intimidates him by many wrong ways such as make him so illness, cut off his thumb, and cut off his left leg. It is aimed he cannot run away from her. It happens because she does not want Paul make mistakes that she hates, so that he must to follow all of her wants.

In this study, the writer is using psychology of literature theory especially psychopathy personality disorder to analyze the behavior of the main character. According to Darma in *Pengantar Teori Sastra* (2004: 138), there are three purposes of the reason of psychology is included into literary study. Those are: (1) To know the behavior and motivation of the characters in a literary work. Directly or not, the behavior and motivation of which the characters do can be found in the real life. (2) To know the behavior and motivation of the author. (3) To know the psychological reaction of the readers. In this study, the first purpose is used to analyze the behavior of the main character named Annie Wilkes who suffers psychopathy personality disorder.

Psychopaths are often heard in society. Generally, they do not have good attitude. They always make crime such as murder, mistreating, abduction, and hostage. In some cases, the criminals have little sense of morality or lack of

conscience and they do criminal action tragically. The criminals can be the people who suffer psychopathy personality disorder since their behavior appropriate with some of psychopathy personality disorder traits. In addition, psychopathy is often associated with criminality and antisocial behavior (Hare, 1996).

Related to the previous statement, it can be strengthened by Cleckley (1941) that psychopaths are people who have traits such as guiltlessness, dishonesty, egocentricity, low anxiety, and failure to form close emotional bonds are often included. It means that the life of psychopaths is not having good attitude because psychopaths are guiltlessness, dishonesty, egocentricity, and low anxiety generally. They always do deviant behavior in the society as long as they want.

Psychopathy personality disorder is abnormal behavior which is often presented in the literary work. Usually, literature is a portrait of human life in the reality. The statement is strengthened by Wallek and Warren that literature represents life and life is in large measure a social reality (1963:94).

The topic is about the life of a psychopath. It is interesting to be analyzed. The psychopath here is Annie Wilkes as the main character in the novel *Misery* written by Stephen King. The novel is chosen as the source of data because it tells about the life of a psychopath which is full of conflicts.

Previously, there are some researchers who analyze different novels by using theory of psychopath. The first researcher is Nessie Agustia (2011) who analyzed Patrick Suskind's *Perfume: The Story of Murderer*. The second researcher is Rizki Adinda Dewiana (2011) who analyzed Thomas Harris'

Hannibal Rising. The last is Nurul Hikmah Maulanie (2011) who analyzed *Orphan* film. Those people use the same theory to analyze characteristic of the main character of each novel and film. While, this study is going to analyze the personality disorder namely psychopathy suffered by the main character in Stephen King's *Misery*.

1.2 Statements of the Research Problem

Based on the background of the study, this study is going to discuss about Annie Wilkes' psychopathy personality disorder in Stephen King's *Misery*. Then, the problem are founded as following questions, they are:

- 1) What are the traits of psychopathy personality disorder suffered by Annie Wilkes?
- 2) What is the cause of psychopathy personality disorder suffered by Annie Wilkes?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In line with questions above, the purpose of this study is divided into two answers, those are:

- 1) To elaborate the traits of psychopathy personality disorder suffered by Annie Wilkes.
- 2) To elaborate the cause of psychopathy personality disorder suffered by Annie Wilkes.

1.4 Significances of the Study

Theoretically, this study will give further understanding about psychology of literature theory, personality disorder theory, especially about psychopathy. Besides, this study hopefully gives the contribution for upcoming study. Practically, this study will give the contribution for the society in order to know what the psychopath is. Especially for the parents to give more feeling of love to the children and will be aware to the people who suffer personality disorder.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is psychology of literature, personality disorder theory, especially about psychopathy. The limitation of this study is the characters' utterances and the author's narrations in *Misery* that indicate the traits and cause of psychopathy personality disorder.