ABSTRACT

A literary work can be converted into another format, for instance, a film. In filmmaking, the themes taken are derived from our depiction of life. Therefore, a film can raise a psychological theme that discusses one of gripping psychology like personality disorders. One of the personality disorders that often heard of is psychopathy. Through the characters in the film, a psychological perspective of a psychopath is displayed. This research aims to analyze the type of psychopathic behavior depicted by Emma Grossman as the main character in The Bad Seed (2018) film directed by Rob Lowe. The author used a qualitative method in describing the analysis of psychopathic behavior experienced by the main character. In investigating the type of psychopathy on Emma, the theory proposed by Millon and Davis (1998) was applied. Based on the research, Emma's enviousness which turns into revenge and several background personality of her psychopathy match the type of Malignant Psychopath. In addition, this research is expected to provide awareness of psychopathy behavior.
1. INTRODUCTION

Literature is a written expression that includes additional characteristics such as “aesthetics” or “artistic” to distinguish them from other texts, for instance, newspapers, legal documents, and telephone books (Klarer, 2013). It is a term to explain the written and verbal material which is refers to works of poetry, fiction, drama, and more (Lombardi, 2020). Literature can be converted into other formats which we often encounter in entertainment a literary work transformed into a film and shown in theaters. Films and literary works are two different things but intend to initiate grandeur in human imagination and interpretation. Transformations of literary works in cinema also come from several sources, such as novels, music, and theater performance (Ramrao, 2016).

The film is a mass media in audio-visual form and very complex. It also contains aesthetic elements to entertain or spread information (Rembang et al., 2015). The work of a film is popular because they offer value in the story. They also produced various genres, which are fascinating to watch and often contain linguistic and cultural content (Anggraeni et al., 2019). Another definition, according to Effendi (1986: 239), a film is a cultural art that integrates the results of technology such as photography and audio recording into one, provided with several supporting arts such as fine arts, literary theater, music, and architectural arts (Sugianto et al., 2017). Then, films are classified into genres based on the storyline, the director, and audiences’ desire to see (Idayu, 2019). In filmmaking, the theme taken is not far from our portrait in society. Thus, each genre of film can be inspired or even acclimate the psychological elements of an individual.

Psychology is a science that studies behavior or activities on the human psyche (Wiyatmi, 2011). In literature, it is an interdisciplinary understanding that helps us learn other disciplines such as sociology, politics, economy, philosophy, and many more. The literature study may also involve psychology as its research method (Mustofa, 2020). Psychological perspective is often used to reveal fascinating phenomena taking place in movies. It can play an important role in analyzing a literary work by paying attention to it from the psychological side, both from the author’s point of view and the characters involved in the work itself (Tumampas, 2016). The psychological approach immediately directs the substantial amplification of the meaning of literary works. Furthermore, as stated by Sangidu (2004: 30) the characterization in a story can be analyzed using psychological principles discovered in human behavior and society (Meiliana, 2020).

It is irrefutable that every individual has a diverse personality. A person’s nature significantly affects behavior, ways of thinking, and communication with others. A personality disorder that affects a person’s mentality can occur. One kind of dysfunction that takes more serious attention is a psychopathic disorder. Someone who has this mental condition is very dangerous in society because their physical impression will be the same as other individuals which make them hard to recognized. As stated by Fitriyah and Jauhar (2014), psychopaths are included in the form of personality disorders. Psychopath consists of the word “psyche” which means soul and
pathos defines “disease”. Based on this, psychopath means mental disorder. However, psychopaths are different from schizophrenia (crazy) because those who experience this disorder are conscious of their actions (Istri et al., 2017). Psychopaths usually do not feel regret, shame, guilt, empathy, or regret for their action even manipulation. They will find ways to justify their actions by blaming victims and society on their harmful actions (Patterson LPC, 2021).

According to Hare (1993), psychopathy refers to a personality disorder in which a person is a social predator mastering to utilize their charm, manipulate their victims, and do cruel things. In addition, they lack empathy, doing whatever they want even if it violates the prevailing social norms in their environment without showing the least amount of guilt or remorse (Crego & Widiger, 2015). Psychopaths have difficulty adjusting to the social rules that apply to their environment. A psychopath will not consider anything but himself and realize the desires that they believe are always right. They will not care about who or whatever entity they are targeting to hurt. Some of the traits of a psychopath can be identified, such as being good at lying, manipulative, having no compassion, and having no remorse after damaging others. Dr. Hervey Cleckley in his book entitled *The Mask of Sanity* (1941), also declared that a psychopath is a person who is charming, pleasant, intellectual, impressive, and good at seducing. They are very academically intellectual, but it is undeniable that there is also negative side like irresponsibility and self-destruction to others (Khodijah, 2015).

1) **Types of Psychopaths**

Psychopath are commonly known for their fierce aggressiveness and the pleasure of harming their victims. However, some of them are also represented as having no hostile intentions towards others. These conflicting concepts derive in part from the different personality patterns of psychopaths. The social deviations that arise come from fundamentally different lifestyles but lead to repugnant actions (Millon & Davis, 1998). Based on this, Millon and Davis (1998) distinguish psychopaths into several types. First, *The Unprincipled Psychopath*. These psychopaths display an arrogant sense of self-worth, do not care about the welfare of others, and behave fraudulently. They expect special recognition and consideration without assuming mutual responsibilities. They have no principles other than exploiting others for their gain. The unprincipled psychopath is associated with the narcissistic personality. They desire special recognition and consideration without accepting mutual obligations.

These narcissistic psychopaths act as if they have no principles other than exploiting others for their gain. They are skilled in social influencing, able to feign innocence, and are adept at deceiving others with charm and cunning. Relationships only last if this type of psychopath has something to gain. People are dropped without thinking about the suffering they may experience due to irresponsible psychopathic behavior.

Other type of psychopath stated by Milon and Davis (1998) is *The Disingenuous Psychopath*. Social skills and hospitality can characterize this type. Although they are
friendly and kind to acquaintances, they are unreliable, impulsive, manipulative, and may resent family members or colleagues. This psychopath exhibits an astute defensive denial of psychological tension or conflict (“Ten Subtypes of Narcissistic Personality,” 2017). Prominent among these disingenuous psychopaths are directions to be contriving and plotting; to apply a dishonest approach to life; and be insincere, calculating, and shady.

Next type of psychopath is called The Risk-Taking Psychopath. Risk-taking can be interpreted as the behavior of an individual Psychopath who exposes himself to activities that cause him to suffer physical or psychological injury, even worse, to cause death (Ghotnian et al., 2013). This psychopath often takes risks for himself just because of the excitement rather than material gain or reputation for the deeds done. The risk-taking psychopath is fearless and unaffected by situations that many people perceive as dangerous or frightening. Unlike many psychopaths, whose primary motivation is pleasure and revenge, this psychopath attaches great importance to the excitement and stimulating dangerous adventures.

There are also types of psychopaths who feel that life is not giving them their rights, deprived of love, support, or material things which is The Covetous Psychopath. They believe that others have taken their share and have never been given a good life. Thus, they have envy and desire to take it back. Through acts of theft or destruction, they compensate themselves for the emptiness of their lives. Therefore, this psychopath never achieves a deep sense of satisfaction.

The fifth type is described as The Spineless Psychopath. They are intensely insecure, frequently fearful, and attempts proof to others through their motions, most typically through violence and aggression, to feel powerful (Fritzon et al., 2019). These psychopaths commit violent acts to overcome their fear. It is meant to show that they are not anxious or weak and will not surrender to external pressure or intimidation. Experiencing panic, the spineless psychopath tries to prevent unavoidable situations by taking the most feared action as a form of preventative attack. This mechanism also serves to distract and impress the public.

Millon and Davis (1998) also mentioned about The Explosive Psychopath. These psychopaths lack control over their anger and frightening attacks on others. These psychopaths respond in an unstable manner, confusing others with sudden changes, saying unforgivable things, and hitting their victims painfully. When explosive psychopaths face repeated failure, embarrassment, and frustration, their control can quickly become overrun by hatred. Once released, that anger refers to memories and emotions pouring uncontrollably to the surface, breaking up into wild, irrational, and uncontrollable anger.

Furthermore, The Abrasive Psychopath acts overtly and directly controversial. For abrasive psychopaths, everything and everyone is an object for releasing their feelings. More than just general anger, this psychopath is intentionally violent and antagonistic. Abrasive psychopaths have endless disagreements with other people, magnifying every little friction into a complicated problem.
The Malevolent Psychopaths are the real-life monsters of our nightmares. They are murderers, rapists, pedophiles, gangsters, and terrorists. They refer to as career criminals who may have accumulated criminal records since their early teens (Verstappen, 2011). This psychopath is revengeful and skeptical of other people. The main psychopathic pattern of this type is sadistic actions that reflect the desire for revenge. They show no guilt or remorse for their violent acts, but instead, they show arrogant contempt for others. They do not lose self-awareness of their actions and continue onward until their revenge and destruction may be achieved.

However, among all types that are already mentioned before The Tyrannical Psychopaths are associated with bullying, often accusing violently and destructive. This variant derives a unique sense of satisfaction from forcing its victims to obey them. Tyrannical psychopaths selectively choose their victims, identifying individuals who are likely to surrender rather than respond with violence. This psychopath use violence as a means to inspire terror and intimidation.

The last type of psychopaths that described by Millon and Davis (1998) is The Malignant Psychopath. Psychopaths belonging to this type are characterized by distrust, hatred, and envy towards others. These traits are a ruthless desire to defend themselves for false memories with cunning revenge or hurting others. In contrast to the further subtypes, malignant psychopaths find that their attempts to abuse and torment others only encourage people to incur more hostility and harsh punishments. This psychopath is afraid of losing self-determination; their fantasies of persecution are filled with fear of being forced to obey authority, being soft and supple, and tricked into giving up their self-determination.

Based on the explanation above, the author is interested in investigating psychopathy depicted from the character of a film that displayed psychopathic behavior. Indeed, many great works deal with this psychopathic topic. However, the author used The Bad Seed (2018) film by Rob Lowe as the analysis data.

Several researchers have conducted research in the same field. Some of them are studies by Lalenoh & Julhijah (2017) entitled "David Fincher’s Gone Girl: Description of Psychopathic Symptomps Reflected on Amy Elliot Dunne's Character" and "Esther’s Psychopathy in David Leslie Johnson’s Orphan Movie Script" by Pujimahanani and Aningsih. The two studies examined the psychopathic phenomenon of a main character in the film by analyzing the psychopathic symptoms depicted. However, they did not analyze the type of psychopathy described by the main character in the film. Moreover, in this research, the phenomenon of psychopathy that occurs in society is made into a film and can also be analyzed to determine the type of psychopathy.

This analysis focused on Emma Grossman, who portrayed psychopathy through her behavior, dialogues, and the scene in this film was analyzed by a theory from Millon and Davis (1998). Although several points can be analyzed from the characters in a film related to psychopathy, this study aims to identify the type of psychopathy reflected on the main character and provide knowledge to recognize this mental disorder by its type so that we can be aware and protect ourselves in society.
2. METHODS

This research used qualitative method in conducting the analysis. The author explores the meaning given by individuals or groups to a social or human problem (Creswell, 1998). In this method research, the author is involved as instruments to understand the context of the situation and setting of natural phenomena according to what is being studied (Fadli, 2021). Observation method was utilized that was realized through recording a symptom of psychopathy and noting it for scientific or other purposes (Hasanah, 2017). The analysis only focused on Emma, who suffered psychopathic behavior in this film. The data were collected with several steps, such as watching the film and reading the script as data sources several times to understand the storyline. Then, the findings were recorded and marked using a note-taking technique based on the issue raised in the film.

The analysis was conducted by matching the data findings that was related to Emma’s characteristics or personality background according to the theory proposed by Millon and Davis. The preference of the psychopathic type is determined based on the most dominant traits displayed by Emma as the background of her psychopathy. In addition, the analysis was descriptively presented with relevant data to support the interpretation.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

RESULTS

This section presents the result of analysis in revealing the psychopathic types of Emma based on her personality background in The Bad Seed (2018) film.

1) The Portrayal of Psychopathic Behavior Shown by Emma

The Bad Seed (2018) tells the story of a nine-year-old little girl named Emma Grossman who lived with her father, David Grossman. Her mother has died and she had an aunt named Angela. Emma is a brilliant, ambitious perfectionist girl that does not like to be defeated. She is earnest in achieving the goals or achievements she desires. Emma's character is seen as very innocent, sweet, and just like a child her age. However, she portrayed several traits of a psychopath like where she stood near a window with a flat face watching a drowning cat and was about to die. Instead of helping the cat, she ignored it to death. This indicated that Emma has no empathy for others.

When she is defeated by her classmate, Milo Curtis, who got a medal from her school as the best student, Emma was desired to snatch the medal by force. She emerged to harm Milo and killed him on the cliff. Since that incident, Mrs. Ellis as Emma's teacher, interrogated the case to find the cause of Milo's death. However, Emma always denied the statement related to the incident under various lies and
manipulation. Finally, she killed the teacher by placing a wasp's nest quietly in her car to prevent her crime is discovered.

Moreover, David became increasingly suspicious and took Emma to a psychiatrist to determine if his daughter had a disorder. With Emma's intelligence and charm, she managed to deceive the psychiatrist. As the babysitter hired by David and Angela, Chloe sensed that Emma had killed Milo. Nevertheless, Chloe always threatened Emma by telling her about the little pink electric chair as her punishment for killing somebody. Besides, Chloe also said that she might be her stepmother. Emma eventually killed the babysitter by burning her alive in the workshed because she did not want anyone to be her stepmother.

In the end, David successfully made Emma confess her evil deeds to her father. Recognizing that something was wrong with his daughter, David planned to kill Emma and himself at the Lake House. Unfortunately, Emma discovered her father's intentions and did not want to follow the plan. After that, Emma desired to kill her father first but failed. By the end, she manipulated Brian by crying while saying that her father wanted to kill her. Brian, who admitted that something was wrong with David and trusted Emma more, finally killed David to save Emma.

2) Emma's Type of Psychopathy

Psychopaths are divided into several sub-categories distinguished by the personality pattern of each individual who has this personality disorder. Among the ten subtypes of psychopaths described by Millon and Davis (1998), Emma is included in the Malignant Psychopath type. The main character is described as a brilliant little girl. She was always optimistic about achieving the goals she wanted to get. However, when the desire or goal is obtained by someone else, Emma was exhibited deep envy to commit violent crimes without the slightest empathy. This enviousness is reflected through her psychopathic behavior that influenced other traits that are believed to be the foundation of the malignant psychopathic type. Following is the table showing evidence that Emma belongs to the Malignant Psychopath.
Table 1 The data of Emma’s psychopathic types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Subtype of Psychopath</th>
<th>Background Personality</th>
<th>Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The Malignant Psychopath</td>
<td>Maintain feelings of envy and resentment towards others.</td>
<td>Milo complimented one of their friend for having a good watch. Emma got jealous and decided to steal it by pushing her then robbing it quietly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Vigilant and visualizing a plot where the environment poses a threat or danger.</td>
<td>Emma felt that Chloe was a threat to her because she would slowly reveal her cruel act of killing Milo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Urge to protect herself for past wrongs with cunning retribution or callous force.</td>
<td>Emma began to sense that Mrs. Ellis threatened her safety as she investigated Milo’s death.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>She does not want to lose self-determination.</td>
<td>Emma is nervous and shaking until she injured her hand before going to the psychiatrist.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to Emma's jealousy and resentment, she displayed other traits that matched the Malignant Psychopath type described in the table above. Furthermore, after inventing her hatred and envy with cruel actions, Emma imagined which side would threaten her. She always protected herself even though she had to hurt and kill the victims.

DISCUSSION

This part investigating the identification of psychopathic behavior reflected on Emma in this film. The author focused on analyzing the types through how Emma behaves to other characters or situations. From the data found, the author determined the dominant type of the psychopathic behavior carried out by Emma as the main character in this film.
1) Maintain Feelings of Envy and Resentment Towards Others

The malignant psychopaths are best characterized by autocratic power orientation, distrust, hatred, and jealousy toward others. Envy denotes the emotion displayed in situations where a person is more successful in a field that is important to the individual. It is believed that the envy experienced by someone is constructive. In his view, envy causes a person to learn to adjust or react to different conditions (Yuldibaevna, 2020). Regarding Emma, the envy she experienced led her to do bad things because it is developed into a grudge.

This happened to Emma when she heard Milo compliment Katie’s watch. Emma, who heard that compliment felt jealous because she knew someone was being praised but not her. Despised by it, Emma purposely pushed Katie while she ran.

Data 1

From figure 1, Emma stole the watch quietly when she tried to help Katie at the same time. After Katie and her friends left, Emma took out her friend’s watch which she had hidden in her pocket. In this case, Emma envies her friend who is praised for having a good watch. Thus, she desires it even if she had to push Katie and steal her watch. Another proof Emma exhibited enviousness is when she was defeated by her classmate, Milo Curtis, for winning the best student award at her school. She reflected a deep feeling of envy because the medal she had longed for was obtained by someone else. This causes Emma to be very disapproving and jealous of Milo. Her jealousy is shown when Emma scolded Milo when she talked to her father.

David : “I’m proud of you, honey bear. I know you’re disappointed.”

Emma : “That medal’s mine. I deserve it. Milo can’t even talk in front of the class.”

David : “Emma. Everybody has something special to offer. Milo’s a good kid.”
Based on the quotation above, it seems that Emma is very disapproving and jealous that she did not win the medal. As a form of jealousy, she scolded Milo to her father. In such a case, Emma's enviousness drove her to get the medal she wanted.

Data 2

Figure 2 Emma gazed to Milo's Medal

After the awards announcement was over, Emma and Milo went to the cliff with a purpose that Emma wants to show him a cool place. Then, Emma gazed at Milo’s medal, it could be interpreted that Emma wants to own that medal, remembering that she had counted on days to win it. At that moment, Emma snatched the medal although in the end Milo had to die because of it. Her enviousness led her to harm others even she has to kill the victim.

2) Vigilant and Visualizing a Plot Where The Environment Poses a Threat or Danger

In their musings, these malignant psychopathic types begin to imagine plots where every aspect of the environment will pose a threat or danger. This happened to Emma when Chloe always provoked her about the punishment she would get after killing Milo.

Data 3

Chloe : “But, if it’s something really bad, like maybe if someone... dies... you get sent to the electrict chair.”
Emma: “You’re silly, nobody would put a kid in the electric chair.”

Chloe: “Sure they do. Do you know what happens in the electric chair? It cooks you. Your skin crackles and shrivels like when we make bacon in the morning.”

(The Bad Seed 2018, minutes 00:33:18)

Chloe believed that Emma had done something terrible to Milo on the cliff. Based on their relationship that never got along from the beginning, Chloe always influenced and even threatened Emma with little pink electric chair as her punishment. In addition, Chloe also said that she could be Emma’s stepmother someday. This causes Emma to feel that Chloe is a threat to her because she will slowly reveal Emma’s evil actions. Emma also strongly rejected if Chloe would become her stepmother. Noticing Chloe as a threat to herself, Emma decided to kill Chloe by burning her alive in the workshed without regret or remorse.

3) **Urge to Protect Herself for Past Wrongs With Cunning Retribution or Callous Force**

After Milo’s death, Mrs. Ellis, Emma’s teacher, investigated the case. As Emma and Chloe were walking around, Emma found Mrs. Ellis visited Mrs. Curtis. Chloe starts to influence Emma by saying things that put Emma in triggers.

**Data 4**

Chloe: “One day the police will get involved and you’ll have to come clean about what you did to Milo.”

Emma: “I didn’t do anything to Milo.”

Chloe: “Sure you didn’t. Anyway, you’ll see. You better get your story or you’re gonna get busted.”

(The Bad Seed 2018, minutes 00:32:05)

Emma began to feel Mrs. Ellis tried to uncover the facts about Milo’s death. Then, Emma decided to kill Mrs. Ellis by placing a wasps nest in her car so that the teacher died from being stung by animals. She did that to her teacher just because to protect herself and Emma believed that with the death of her teacher, no one would try to investigate how Milo died.
4) Emma Does Not Want to Lose Self-determination

This is revealed when Emma’s father begins to feel something strange about his daughter’s psyche and wants to take her to a psychiatrist. Previously, Emma seemed normal before going to psychiatry. Emma silently faced the mirror, contemplating. At this time, David came to Emma’s room reminding her to leave soon. After David left her room, Emma looked at the mirror but with a different look than before.

Data 5

Based on the picture above, she was so nervous and shaking until she hurt her hand because she worried the psychiatrist would find out about her. This indicates that Emma will not have the power over herself to act if she diagnosed with personality disorder.

The malignant psychopath does not want to lose self-determination; their fantasies of persecution are filled with fear of being forced to submit to authority, made soft and supple, and tricked into surrendering their self-determination (Millon & Davis, 1998). After arriving at the psychiatrist’s place, Emma can control herself and display her emotions well so that the psychiatrist does not suspect that Emma has a mental illness or other disorder. In the end, Dr. March as her psychiatrist, admits to her father that there is nothing wrong with Emma and says she is a hundred percent perfectly average child.

4. CONCLUSION

Conforming to the analysis results, the author found one type of psychopath that approximates Emma, supported by seven pathological characteristics in her psychopathic behavior. Emma’s type of psychopathy is included as the malignant psychopath. In this case, her essential traits are highly jealous and resentful to others. As a result, she will do everything to achieve her goals, even if she harms others. Evidence shows her enviousness drove Emma to do cruel things without remorse or guilt. It occurred when Milo won the medal she wanted. Moreover, she admitted all
the ways to get the medal even though she had to kill Milo. After a murder, Emma is vigilant and needs to protect herself from past wrongs and the environment that may threaten her. She felt compelled to kill the threat or her victims just to protect herself from submission. In addition, there are weaknesses in the development of this research. The author suggests that the next researcher will better complement or explain more deeply about the psychopaths and analyze other personality disorders to add information to readers and researchers who want to study in the same field.

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