

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

According to dictionary of psychology, sadomasochism is the giving or receiving of sexual pleasure from acts involving the infliction or reception of pain of humiliation. A subset of BDSM (Bondage/Discipline, Sadism/Masochism), practitioners of sadomasochism normally seek out sexual gratification from these acts, but can also seek out other forms of personal pleasure. The term sadist refers to one who enjoys inflicting pain on others, and the term masochist refers to one who enjoys receiving pain from others. Richters, J. De Visser and colleagues (2007) examined the common belief that people with sadomasochistic sexual interest are damaged or dangerous.

The term “Sadism” was named after Marquis de Sade who had practiced the sexual sadism and wrote novel about such practices, while the term “Masochism” was named after Leopold von Sacher-Masoch. He practiced masochism and wrote novels expressing his masochistic fantasies. These terms were first selected as professional scientific terminology, identifying human behavioral phenomena and have the purpose to classify the distinct psychological illness or malicious social and sexual orientations (Hyde and DeLamater, 1999: 432-435).

In 1905, Sigmund Freud described sadism and masochism in his *Drei Abhandlungenzur Sexual theorie* (Three papers on Sexual theory) as stemming from improper psychological development from early childhood. He also laid the groundwork for the widely accepted medical perspective on the subject in the following decades. This led to the first compound usage of terminology in Sado-Masochism by the Viennese Psychoanalyst Isidor Isaak Sader, regarding the sadomasochistic complex in 1913 (Sadger, 1913: 157).

According to modern psychology, there are some reasons commonly given for why a sadomasochist finds the practice of Sadomasochism enjoyable, and

the answer is largely dependent on the individual. Taking on a role of compliance or helplessness offers a form of therapeutic escape for some people from the stresses of life, from responsibility, or from guilt. For others, being under the power of a strong, controlling presence may suggest the feelings of safety and protection associated with childhood. They likewise may get satisfaction from earning the approval of that figure.

Sadomasochism can also be a topic of literary works. One of literary works that adopt sadomasochism as its main issue is *Fifty Shades Trilogy* which includes three novels of *Fifty Shades of Grey*, *Fifty Shades Darker*, and *Fifty Shades Freed*, written by E.L James, a British novelist who was born in London, England on 7 March, 1963, with her real name, Erika Mitchell. The combined novels have sold over 100 million copies worldwide by June 2015 and set the record in the United Kingdom as the fastest selling paperback of all time. In 2012, E.L James was named as one of the world's most influential people by Time Magazine. James went to the independent Pipers Corner School and at Wycombe High School, a state grammar school for girls on the town of High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire, followed by the University of Kent in South East England where she studied History. E.L James has also received awards and honors such as "The 100 Most Influential People in the World" by Time Magazine in 2012, "Publishing Person of the Year" by Publishers Weekly in 2012, "Popular Fiction Book of the Year" and "Book of the Year" by National Book Award (UK) in 2012 for her *Fifty Shades of Grey*.

Fifty Shades Trilogy includes three novels: *Fifty Shades of Grey*, *Fifty Shades Darker*, and *Fifty Shades Freed*. The three books are published by The Writer's Coffee Shop. The first book, *Fifty Shades of Grey* and the second book, *Fifty Shades Darker* are published in 2011, while the third book, *Fifty Shades Freed* is published in 2012. The trilogy itself has been translated into more than fifty languages. The trilogy has become the world phenomenon for both good and bad opinions towards it. The three books have put significant influence on the readers for its explicit sexual scenes of the BDSM (Bondage/Discipline, Sadism/Masochism) relationship between the two main

characters. Based on the reviews that have been posted on Amazon.com and Goodreads.com, many readers say the books are addictive. However, the trilogy has become very controversial among society.

The first installment of the trilogy, *Fifty Shades of Grey* tells the story of Anastasia Steele, an ordinary and innocent college graduate, who has to represent her roommate, Kate Kavanagh for an important interview with Christian Grey, a young and successful businessman. Anastasia then finds herself in love with Christian. Later, Christian understands that he is also interested in Anastasia and reveals that he wants to have sex with her but she will have to fill out a paper work first. Christian takes Anastasia on a date where he takes her in his helicopter, Charlie Tango, to his apartment. He takes her to his playroom which is full of BDSM (Bondage/Discipline, Dominance/Submissive & Sadism/Masochism) equipment. There, he informs her that there will be no romantic relationship between them, only a sexual one. Anastasia later meets up with Christian to discuss the contract, only to be overwhelmed by the potential BDSM arrangement and the potential of having a sexual relationship with Christian that is not romantic in nature. Without having yet signed the contract, Anastasia is spanked for the first time by Christian. The experience leaves her both slightly confused. The situation between Anastasia and Christian eventually comes to a head after Anastasia asks Christian to punish her in order to show her how bad their sexual relationship with him could be. Christian fulfills Anastasia's request, beating her with a belt six times, only for Ana to realize that the two of them are incompatible.

Fifty Shades Darker focuses on the deepening relationship between Anastasia and Christian. Ana starts working at Seattle Independent Publishing (SIP), as a personal assistant to editor, Jack Hyde. Christian then decides to buy SIP for his nonsense jealousy. Ana feels that Christian is interfering in her career. Christian insists that it was for her own protection because Jack is a "known philanderer", as he apparently harassed his last five assistants. Their suspicions about Jack prove right when he corners Ana after hours and

blackmails her, demanding sexual favors. Christian has Jack fired and seizes his work computer.

Unfortunately, Ana and Christian's normal relationship seems not to run very smoothly. They are disturbed by Elena Lincoln, the woman who has seduced Christian when he was only fifteen, and Ana is disgusted to know they are still friends. Ana is also stalked by a disturbed Leila Williams, Christian's former submissive. Leila has a gun and breaks into Ana's apartment. Christian handles the situation by using their dominant/submissive dynamic, but this leaves Ana worried that Christian cannot be satisfied with a normal relationship. Ana confronts Christian about Leila. Fearing she is leaving him again, he proposes an improper marriage, but Ana needs time to consider it.

Later, Christian takes Ana to the boathouse, which is decorated with flowers and soft lights. He proposes properly with a ring and Ana accepts. Outside the Grey's mansion, Jack Hyde is secretly watching the party; he reveals that he sabotaged Christian's helicopter and swears revenge.

Fifty Shades Freed shows the life of Anastasia and Christian after marriage. After a long honeymoon in Europe, Anastasia and Christian Grey return to Seattle where Christian gets upset for Ana has kept her original name, Steele, at work. After some resistance, Ana finds it nonsense. Later, Ana informs Christian that she is pregnant, but Christian seems not to like it and indirectly wants Ana to do an abortion which Ana refuses to consider. Ana reveals that Christian is still continuing becoming friends with Elena Lincoln. They hardly speak out of anger.

Jack Hyde has kidnapped Mia Grey and wants five million dollars in two hours. He warns Ana not to tell anyone or he will kill Mia. Ana takes Leila Williams' loaded gun and makes her way to the bank. While collecting the money, the suspicious bank manager calls Christian who thinks Ana is leaving him. Ana lies that she is leaving him and going to raise the baby alone so Christian won't interfere and put Mia's life in danger. She leaves via the back entrance to a waiting car. Hyde attacks her out of revenge for losing his job. While bruised on the ground, Ana shoots Hyde in the leg and passes out. Ana

wakes three days later in the hospital with Christian at her side. Though he is angry at Ana for being thoughtless and still anxious about being a father, he now realizes how important their baby is to her and they reunite.

Two years later, Ana and Christian have a son named Theodore, nicknamed Teddy, and Ana is six months pregnant with their second child, a daughter that they plan to name Phoebe. At the end, Ana and Christian are getting ready to celebrate Teddy's second birthday with their family and friends.

There are several reasons why the researcher decides to analyze the trilogy. First, the trilogy, including the three books, has become a worldwide phenomenon. The researcher believes that the society of the world is now paying attention to the trilogy. Second, the trilogy is very controversial for its content. The researcher wants to find out the reason why there have been many responses regarding the content of the trilogy. Third, the conflict in the novel, including the BDSM (Bondage/Discipline, Sadism/Masochism) is worth paying attention. The researcher wants the society to understand the practice of sadomasochism before getting involved in it as the trilogy has drawn attention from the society.

Psychoanalysis approach is a study of human system of personality, which is the branch of psychological study. In psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud describes the unconscious as an aspect of personality which is unknown to the mind of the subject (Bootzin, et al, 1975: 455).

In Psychoanalysis, Freud has divided personality into three separated but interacting systems, namely the *id*, the *superego*, and the *ego*. According to Freud, the *id* includes all those instincts, reflexes, and other biological properties, which are inherited at birth. The *superego* acts as an internal censor, causing us to make moral judgments in light of social pressures. The function of *ego* is to express and satisfy the desires of the *id* in accordance with reality and the demands of *superego* (Pervin, 1970: 77).

The reason why the researcher uses Psychoanalysis approach to analyze the issue of sadomasochism in the trilogy because this research is mainly about

why and how the major characters can get involved in a such sexual lifestyle. In this case, the researcher has to go deeper in analyzing the major characters' sex drive in which it is affected by one of the three systems of personality as proposed by Freud in Psychoanalysis. The system of personality that is responsible for the major characters' sex drive is the *id*. The various properties of the *id*, especially those concerned with sexual expression is referred to as the libido, and libido is known as a person's overall sexual drive or desire for sexual activity (Munn, et al, 1969: 475). Therefore, the researcher assumed that Psychoanalysis is the best theory to analyze the issue of sadomasochism in the trilogy.

Based on the reasons above, the researcher will observe the Fifty Shades trilogy, including the three books, *Fifty Shades of Grey*, *Fifty Shades Darker*, and *Fifty Shades Freed* as the project to analyze. The researcher will analyze the trilogy using the psychoanalytic approach, considering it is the most suitable approach to analyze the psychology condition of the two major characters in the trilogy. Therefore, the researcher arranges the title of the research paper as **SADOMASOCHISM IN E.L. JAMES' FIFTY SHADES TRILOGY (2011-2012): A PSYCHOANALITIC APPROACH**

B. Problem Statement

The main problem of the study is how and why sadomasochism is done by the two major characters in the trilogy, Christian Grey and Anastasia Steele, which then it will be explained by relating the result of the analysis with the theory of Psychoanalysis. Therefore, the researcher has formed three research questions as follows;

1. What sexual acts are committed by the practitioners of sadomasochism?
2. How is the response of the partner?
3. Why did E.L James expose the phenomenon of sadomasochism?

C. Scope of the Study

The researcher focuses only on analyzing sadomasochism done by the two main characters, Anastasia Steele and Christian Grey in E.L James' *Fifty Shades Trilogy* (2011-2012), using the Psychoanalytic approach.

D. Objectives of the Study

Conducting the research, the researcher formulates the objectives of the study, as follows:

1. To find out what sexual acts are committed by the practitioners of sadomasochism.
2. To find out the response of the partner.
3. To find out why E.L James exposed the phenomenon of sadomasochism.

E. Benefit of the Study

The researcher expects that the research which analyzes the issue of Sadomasochism done by the two main characters, Anastasia Steele and Christian Grey in *Fifty Shades Trilogy* gives many benefits. The benefits will be differentiated into two kinds of benefits.

1. Theoretical Benefits

The result of the study is expected to be able to give information and contribution of knowledge to the academic reference. It can also be a reference for other researchers to conduct particularly research and literary studies on the same objects.

2. Practical Benefits

The study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience for the researcher in many things and for other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and for students of other universities who have the same interest in conducting a literary research using the psychoanalytic approach.

F. Research Paper Organization

This research paper organizations of Sadomasochism in E.L James' *Fifty Shades Trilogy* (2011-2012): A Psychoanalytic Approach are as follows: Chapter I is introduction, which consists of the background of the study, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, and research paper organization. Chapter II concerns with previous studies and the underlying theory, which elaborates the notion of Psychoanalytic theory, Structure of Personality, and Theoretical Application. Chapter III deals with research methodology. Chapter IV focuses on data analysis and discussion. Chapter V provides the conclusion of the study.