THE PSYCHOPATH PHENOMENON REFLECTED IN GILLIAN FLYNN’s GONE GIRL NOVEL (2012): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH

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I hereby stated wholeheartedly that I write *The Psychopath Phenomenon Reflected in Gillian Flynn’s GONE GIRL Novel (2012): A Psychoanalytic Approach*. It is not plagiarism of the previous literary work/masterpiece which is written by others. Everything which is written in this research paper related to others works are written in manuscript and mentioned in the literary review and bibliography.

If it is then proved that I cheat, I will hold fully responsible.

Surakarta, 13 June 2016

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Abstrak


Kata Kunci: psikopat, Gone Girl, pendekatan psikoanalitik

ABSTRACT

This research is about The Psychopath Phenomenon Reflected in Gillian Flynn’s Gone Girl novel (2012) which is analyzed by using Psychoanalytic Approach. The objectives of this study are to describe the characteristic of psychopath, to analyze types of psychopath, to analyze the cause of being of psychopath, and to understand why the author opened psychopath to the public. This research is a qualitative research. The primary data of this research is Gone Girl (2012) a novel by Gillian Flynn. The secondary data are some selected references and material related to the study. The researcher displays four conclusions in this research. Firstly, everybody can be a psychopath and have five characteristics namely, lack of remorse, grandiosity, compulsive lying, manipulative, anti - social behavior. Secondly, there are two types of psychopath. Namely Con Artist and The Victim. Con artist is a psychopath who is good at manipulating, fluent lying and distorting the facts, and The Victim a psychopath who uses sex as a hook for achieving the goal. Thirdly, the causes of psychopath. Family problem is one of the causes someone to be a psychopath. And the last, Gillian Flynn take psychopath in her books to show the dark side of woman.

Keywords: psychopath, Gone Girl, psychoanalytic approach
A. Introduction

*Gone Girl* is a novel that was written by Gillian Flynn and released in June 2012. The *Gone Girl* novel is sadistic but romantic. This novel has very highly complicated problem. This novel has three parts, first Boy Loses Girl, second Boy Meets Girl, and the last Boy Gets Girl Back. Every part has different problem. The first part tells about how a boy meets who the girl, why girl scared with the boy, lie of the boy, and boy loses girl. Second part tells that boy meets the girl, who is the real of girl, and what are the girl think. The last part tells that girl back to the boy, how the process to back and why girl back to the boy.

The novel was amazing. The reader shown this novel have complicated problem. The problem is about family problem, exactly a marriage. In the fifth wedding anniversary, Amy was gone. In the part one, we are encouraging to hate Nick, a husband from Amy. All the problem accused a Nick as the primary suspect from the problem. But in the part two, as long as we read this novel, we conclude that Nick is not wrong. Yet, he is a victim from his wife doing, Amy. Amy doing many lie and manipulative to blame every problem to Nick. She does that because she hates with Nick. Nick always uses her to sex, he wants Amy to be cool girl, and Nick forget about five wedding anniversary. Every problem in this novel starts to show up. And in the last part, the reader shown that a real personality of Amy. Amy is a dangerous woman. She kills Desi, who is helping Amy when she runs out of money, to return with her husband, Nick. She admits to the police that she was be raped by Desi. And finally she can go back to live forever with Nick.

Before writing this research, I have found some previous studies on Gone Girl novel. The first research is by Gilang Wening Pertiwi, a student of State University of Yogyakarta (2016), who writes a paper entitled “Amy’s Personality Disorder in Flynn’s Gone Girl: A Psychological Approach”. She uses a Psychological approach to analyze the data and uses Gone Girl novel as the object. The writer uses qualitative research. The paper analyzes (1) Amy Dunne’s personality disorder related to her actions and behaviors that reflect it, and (2) the cause of Amy’s personality disorder. The data of this research are words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and paragraphs taken from the novel which are related to the topic of the research. The writer collected the data by reading the data comprehensively and took notes on important words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and paragraphs related to the topic. The writer analyzed the novel by using Psychological approach and American Psychiatric Association’s *DSM – IV*, which focused on antisocial personality disorder, especially in the characteristic and the cause. From the result of this research, the writer found that Amy suffers antisocial personality disorder. It is indicating by Amy’s action and behaviors which show the characteristic of antisocial personality disorder.

Second research is by Ayu Hudziyafah, a student of UIN SUNAN AMPEL SURABAYA (2015), who writes a paper entitled “The Extraordinary Life of Amy Elliot Dunne in Gillian Flynn's Gone Girl”. And the last research is Lidia Eni Abineno, a student of Sanata Dharma University (2015), who writes a paper entitled “The Conscience of Amy Seen through Psychoanalysis Feminism in Gillian Flynn’s Gone Girl”. She uses a Psychoanalysis Feminism to analyze the data.

A psychopath is a general is psychiatric disorders on someone that causing the lost control and could not think logically. Psychopathy refers to a pathological personality disputation that involves charm, manipulation, and ruthless exploitation of others. Psychopathic persons are lacking in conscience and feeling for others; they selfishly take what they want and do as they please without the slightest sense of guilt or regret (Hare, Neumann, & Widiger, 2012).
B. Object of the Study

Object of the study is divided into two, formal object and material object. Formal object of the study is some books discussing about psychopath. The material object of the study is Gone Girl novel written by Gillian Flynn. The writer analyzes the novel by using a psychoanalytic approach and discuss about psychopath that is raised in the novel.

C. Underlying Theory

This chapter deals with underlying theory. This research paper uses psychoanalytic approach to analyze the novel because the theory of psychoanalytic has a big deal with human psyche, which can be used to analyze the major character’s psychological condition.

1. Notion of Psychoanalysis

Psychoanalysis is the theory from Sigmund Freud in 1856. The most influential theories in the field were personality by Sigmund Freud in 1856 – 1939. They believe that everything a person, feels, think, fantasizes, dreams, and does has psychological motive. He was very interested studied about unconscious mind. The unconscious is an important aspect of personality. Bringing what is unconscious to conscious is crucial therapy for neurotic disorders (Linda L, 201: 14).

According to Sigmund Freud, there are three parts of mind, conscious, preconscious, and unconscious. The conscious and preconscious mind is the smallest parts of the mind, because in conscious mind it represents of your perceptions, memories, thoughts, fantasies, and feeling (Boeree, 2003). According Boeree, different conscious and preconscious mind, unconscious mind is the biggest parts of the mind. It represents memories, emotions, and source of motivations.

2. The Structure of Personality

a. The id

Id is the only components personality present since born. Aspect personality be fully aware and including of behavior instinctive and primitive. The form of id such as wish, motivation, needs occurs spontaneously. The examples are thirst, hunger, cool, sex, and the other experiences show presence a need.

According to Freud, id is the root of all psychic energy, so that a major component personality. Id driven by the principle pleasure, “The pleasure principle does not take into account the feelings of others, society norms, or agreements between people” (Newman 1983: 385) that seeks to satisfaction immediately of all the wishes, desires, and needs. If this need not satisfied, the result is anxiety or tension.

Sex and aggression is also a part of id. The purpose of sex is a pleasure, but this pleasure is not limited to genital satisfaction (Feist, 1985. 33). And the aim of aggression is self-destruction. As with the sexual drive, aggression is flexible and can take a number of forms, such as teasing, gossip, sarcasm, humiliation. humor, and the enjoyment of other people’s suffering. The aggressive tendency is present in everyone and is the explanation for wars, atrocities, and religious persecution (Feist, 1985. 34).

b. The ego

The second element in personality system is ego. Ego is a component personality responsible to deal with reality. According to Freud, ego develops from id and ensure that the id can be expressed in a manner acceptable in the real world. Function of ego both in the conscious mind, precious mind, and unconscious mind.
Unlike the id, the ego distinguishes between reality and fantasy, tolerates moderate amounts of tension, changes as function of new experience and endanger in rational cognitive activity (Feist, 1985:90).

According to Freud, ego is the structures personality dealing with the demand reality, which contains reasoning and understanding right. Ego tried to suppress action until she had a chance to understand reality accurately, understand what happened in the past and made plans which realistic in order to satisfy id. The function of ego is also to filter from the impulse who want to slaked based on the fact.

c. The superego

The third part of personality called the superego. Superego is the personality system which has principle of morality consists of some values and evaluated norms. About superego, Freud says;

The long period of childhood, during which the growing human being lives is dependence upon his parents, leaves behind it a precipitate, which forms within his ego a special agency in which this parental influence is prolonged. It receives the name of super-ego (OP 3).

The function of superego is dealing with good or bad. Superego was more of a perfection that pleasure, therefore superego may be regarded as a moral issue that personality itself. Hall states that “superego is morality element branch of justice from personal system; superego is the internal representative of traditional values and evaluative norms” (Hall, 1988:35).

In Boeree (2003), he states that there are two aspects to the superego: first is the conscience, which is an internalization of punishment and warnings. The other is called the ego ideal. It derives from rewards and positive models presented to the child. The conscience and ego ideal communicate their requirements to the ego with feelings like pride, shame, and guilt.

D. Research Finding

In this section the researcher presents the result of the research, namely characteristics of psychopath, types and causes of psychopath, and reason the author exposed the psychopath.

1. Characteristics of Psychopath

a. Lack of Remorse

Remorse is an emotional expression of personal regret felt by someone after they have been doing of an act which they deem to be embarrassing, painful, or violence. There is some lack of remorse in this novel;

1) Planning

When Amy realized that she must go back to real personality, she makes a plan bring to Nick that she was real Amy. That plan was stronger when she knows Nick make affair with Andie. Trapping the husband with her murder is Amy plan. It was extreme plan. Amy does that because she lost her remorse.

It's rather extreme, framing your husband for your murder. (GG.365)
2) Desires to harm

After she saw Andie with her husband, Nick, she wanted to destroy Andie. She wanted to make Andie suffer like her when Andie took Nick from her. Andie made Amy’s home wrecked.

Homewrecker. My home was disheveled but not yet wrecked when she first started kissing my husband, reaching inside his trousers, slipping into bed with him. (GG. 384)

She is a little slut; she is not to be pitied. I cannot believe anyone would feel sorry for Andie. I literally refuse to believe it. (GG. 501)

3) Sadism

She used a knife which she had found in the basement, and then killed Desi. Finally, Desi died with a lot of blood. Amy performed this action without mercy. She was just thinking about her pleasure and thinking how to get back to Nick.

The knife I used on him, and on my bonds, will be nearby on the floor where I dropped it, dazed, and walked barefoot. (GG. 561)

I didn’t think of anything but getting back to Nick. (GG. 561)

b. Grandiosity

Grandiosity is one of the characteristics of psychopath. This character believes that herself amazing, most powerful and most large. In the sentence explain that Amy want, everyone believe that she was the perfect one. But the people don’t believe that she was perfect, so it makes Amy’s liar and punished. Amy wants everybody to admit that she is perfect person. Amy is told as someone who is smart and charming. But sometimes she can’t control herself. She was OCD (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder) person. Amy has this character.

‘I feel like Amy wanted people to believe she really was perfect. And as we got to be friends, I got to know her. And she wasn’t perfect. You know? She was brilliant and charming and all that, but she was also controlling and OCD and a drama queen and a bit of a liar. Which was fine by me. It just wasn’t fine by her. She got rid of me because I knew she wasn’t perfect. It made me wonder about you.’ (GG. 445)

c. Compulsive Lying

Lying is always done by psychopath. Normal people will lie if necessary. But each the act of a psychopath is lying. He tried to habituate this. There is some lying which is reflected in Amy, such as;

1) Blood Lying

Amy was a lie. She planned and then people think that she was afraid of blood. And people accused Nick as murderer because no one people in home, except Nick.

The fear of blood was a lie – during the past year, my wife had been mostly a lie. (GG. 583)
2) Pregnant Lying

Amy lies to the other about her pregnant. She used this opportunity for make the fact that Nick impregnates her and then he left. She used semen Noelle to adulterate her pregnancy.

You know what is hard? Faking a pregnancy. (GG. 398)

The baby was a lie. (GG. 583)

3) The Other Lying

In Amy’s escape, she was lying about his name. She said that her name Nancy, not Lydia or Amy.

‘I’m Nancy,’ I say. A new name – not Lydia – which isn’t smart in these cramped quarters, but it comes out. My brain sometimes goes too fast for my own good. (GG. 403)

She also lied about her appearance. She changed her appearance to hide her identity.

Change into generic clothes, tuck hair in hat, climb down the banks of the river, and scuttle along the edge, the water lapping inches below, until you reach the edge of the complex. (GG. 345)

d. Manipulative

Manipulation is the act of a diversion. He can make another people perform, besides he owns do it with this ability, he rarely recognizable people. Besides kill a people, Amy is also manipulating people, especially Nick, about falsify loss of her and make a trap with the murder of against him. There is some manipulative which is reflected in Amy, such as;

1) Blood manipulation on the kitchen floor

Amy is manipulating a blood in the kitchen floor as if she was hurt by Nick. Amy put a knife into the wrist then she cut her in upper arm, while biting a rag so that she wouldn’t scream. She sat cross legged on kitchen floor for 10 minutes and let the blood drips until make puddle.

‘Okay, because the tech did a Luminol sweep, and I’m sorry to tell you, the kitchen floor lit up. A good amount of blood was spilled there.’ (GG. 248)

Cut myself has been on the list a long time. I ended up cutting into the inside of my upper arm, gnawing on a rag so I wouldn’t scream. The living room looks staged, yet the blood has been cleaned up: It can’t be Amy! (GG. 344-345)

2) Sitting room manipulation

Amy manipulates sitting room in order to police thought that there was a family quarrel.

Stage the living room. Tip ottoman. Check. (GG. 345)

3) Credit card manipulation
Nick was trapped by Amy with a bill credit card, she collected money from credit card by using the Nick name, and it made Nick looks like greedy little cheat. Amy took money until $ 4,000. She also steals from Nick’s wallet and gets the money from a jar when she was in the bar.

But I collected cash forwards from credit cards I took out in Nick’s name – the cards that would make him look like a greedy little cheat – and I siphoned off another $4,400 from our bank accounts over the months: withdrawals of $200 or $300, nothing to attract attention. I stole from Nick, from his pockets, a $20 here, a $10 there, a slow deliberate stockpile – it’s like that budgeting plan where you put the money you’d spend on your morning Starbucks into a jar, and at the end of the year you have $1,500. And I’d always steal from the tip jar when I went to The Bar. (GG. 381-382)

4) Sex manipulation

Amy was trapped Tommy O’Hara with an alibi that she had been raped by Tommy. Amy went to Tommy’s apartment by bringing DVD comedy and a bag of burger. They watched the DVD with the leg overlapped and then had sex. Amy has successfully manipulated Tommy. She was successfully manipulated him.

She’s got some bootleg DVD of a comic I like, an underground performance in Durham, and she’s got a sack of burgers, and we watch the DVD, and she’s got her leg flopped over mine, and then she’s nestling into me, and … sorry. She’s your wife. My main point is: The girl knew how to work me. And we end up …’. (GG. 425)

5) Murder manipulation

Amy injured herself. She used a bottle of wine to make wound on her vagina every day. And then, when everything was ready he had sex with Desi. From the action that conclude Amy raped by Desi. That is not all, Amy also killed Desi with an alibi to turn her good name.

‘I found some twine in one corner of his basement. I used a steak knife to saw it into four pieces—’. (GG. 583)

‘I took a wine bottle, and I abused myself with it every day, so the inside of my vagina looked … right. Right for a rape victim. (GG. 583)

e. Anti-Social

Anti-social is one of the characteristic that owned by psychopath. A psychopath usually doesn’t want to live in society, because if they are associate with others, they feel bridled. There are some anti-social which is reflected in Amy. It divided into two kinds;

1) Anti-social with family

Amy was anti-social, because after years together, Amy still don’t know or recognize Nick’s mother, Amy also no attempt to acquainted with the Nick’s family.

But I couldn’t tell Go that Amy loved our mother, because after all that time, Amy still barely knew our mother. Their few meetings had left them both baffled. (GG. 12)
Amy didn’t care to know my family, didn’t want to know my birthplace, and yet for some reason, I thought moving home would be a good idea. (GG. 13)

2) Anti-social with friends

Paula and Jessie who is train sing and fashion that discard by Amy after what she wants to fulfilled. Paula and Jessie are friends in New York, before she moves to Missouri.

Friends. In New York, Amy made and shed friends weekly; they were like her projects. But then I’d ask about Jessie or Paula a month later, and Amy would look at me like I was making up words. (GG. 75)

Amy and Noelle Hawthorne were not being friends.

She told the police she was best friends with Amy when I know she wasn’t. They weren’t even friends. Her husband says she’s been in hysterics. (GG. 202)

2. Types and Causes of Psychopath

The types of psychopath in this novel are con artist and the victim. Not all types of psychopath by Verstappen reflected in this novel. Con artist is a psychopath who is good at manipulating, fluent lying, and distorting the facts. Con artist is also convincing others with such lies. And then the victim, this type includes the extreme psychopath, because they use sex as a tool for achieving the objectives. Like as for getting the money, trust, job, or used to resuscitate someone. And the other types like narcissists, malevolent psychopath, professional psychopath, and secondary psychopath are not being listed in this novel.

The causes of psychopath in this novel are evolutionary perspective in causation. Family problem make the person can be a psychopath. Family problem that cannot be resolved culminate made a wife be a psychopath. In the family we should be open and accept a couple we are, because we are already committed to live together. If there is a problem to be solved properly either, not to blame each other and make one of the parties to be disappointed.

E. Discussion

After the researcher analysis this novel used theory of psychopath, it found that Amy have many characteristic as a psychopath. Such as; lack of remorse, grandiosity, compulsive lying, manipulative, and anti-social behavior. There are three ways to become a psychopath. First, genes and environment, second evolutionary perspectives on causation and the last is brain disorder. In this case Amy including in evolutionary perspective on causation. She got problem in her life, exactly in her marriage. She became a psychopath because there is no honesty in her marriage. Nick always lying what he was done, and Amy always accept his lying. Honesty is the important thing in marriage, because it builds two people who have different idea.

Amy is a con artist and the victim. Con artist is someone who can speak well, affecter, charming, convincing, and malevolent. She uses her potency to make people believe. And finally, family, society, and police believe her lying. She also easy to manipulating. Like, she was manipulating her pregnancy. She invited Noelle come her house to drink many lemonades. And then she saved semen’s Noelle in a jar. After that she went to doctor to consolate her semen. And get a paper that she was pregnant. The important point in con artist is someone who easy in lying.
And the victim is someone who use sex as a hook. Someone use a sex to get her pleasure. It is like Amy; she uses sex anything that she wants. And the sadism when she kills Desi after had a sex.

_Gone Girl_ novel is romantic and thrillers. This novel tells about destruction of the marriage relationship as a result of difference that is owned by two people, Nick and Amy. Amy is a person who perfect, brilliant, unreliable, and easy going. While Nick, as a person who romantic, can be pleasant couples and love sex. After several times Nick and Amy married until the problem make destruction their marriage.

From the psychoanalytic perspective, it is evidence that id, ego, superego have a role to make Amy’s psychopath. Amy’s id is more dominant than her ego and superego and can take an effect to Amy become a psychopath. If her superego is more dominant than her id, she will understand what Nick’s doing and give an advice that he is wrong. The another id that will know when she kills Desi. She just to seek her pleasure and in order to get the goal has reached. The ego has function to express and gratify Amy’s desire of id and also as a tool to be accepted in the public.

Sex and aggression is also a part of id. The aim of sex is to get pleasure. According to Freud, this pleasure is not limited to genital satisfaction, but all to get the pleasure is sex. There are two drive that related in sex are sadism and masochism. Sadism is the need for sexual pleasure with inflicting pain another person, and masochism is the need for sexual pleasure with inflicting pain by self. Amy is affect sadism. Because she can get the pleasure when she can slander her husband, Nick, with all the lying. And the next is aggression. According to Freud, as with the sexual drive, aggression is flexible and can take a number of forms, such as teasing, gossip, sarcasm, humiliation. Humor and the enjoyment of other people are suffering. Amy’s very enjoy if Nick get problem. She just watches it and she get her pleasure every time she punishes Nick.

According Rene Wellek and Austin Warren (1949: 75) psychology of literature means “the psychological study of the writer, as type and as individual, or the study of the creative process, or the study of the psychological types and laws present within works of literature, or, finally, the effects of literature upon its readers (audience psychology). Gillian Flynn makes the story in this novel so interesting. She describes the dark side of woman, more precisely as a wife. She wanted to show that the woman can cruel as the man, even a psychopath. In this novel, Amy described as smart people, can speak well, referring to influence others, and a liar. That is why she easy to execute and misled the others. Gillian Flynn also talks about the important to build a marriage. Be honesty and be overt to the partner. But, marriage can be real killer, because if the couple don’t be honesty and be overt so the bad things will be happening. Marriage is different with courtship, courtship is more beautiful and amazing.

The relation between literature and psychology is literature can affect the readers feeling, personality, and knowledge. So, Gillian Flynn writes gone girl as one of literary work to describe that psychopath can occur in every people in the world, including in the marriage. Conflict start when nick ask to be Cool Amy. A girl who sexy, brilliant, funny, like football, poker, dirty jokes, burping, play video games, drinks cheap beer, happy threesome and anal sex, eat hotdog and hamburgers. And also never get angry, smiled us disappointed, a little embarrassed, love manner as well as and freeing their boyfriend. For some years Amy successful to do it, but she thinks that she can’t to be others. She must be change; she must be Real Amy.

Nick also make affair with Andie. Andie is a journalism student of North Carthage Junior College. Andie is beautiful woman, young and very young mistress. She likes embracing, touch, and most important she loves sex. Finally, for save Nick from all of the errors, she framed nick with all their lies. Amy gone in five wedding anniversary and give a clue from the police that Nick kills Amy. Nick also be charged with credit card to him pleasure and spend their money. Desi, was a
savior from adversity also as Amy’s victim. Desi intend to help Amy but she kills him in order to restore her good name.

F. Conclusion

I would like to make a conclusion of what has been analyzed in the previous chapter;

Firstly, from eleven characteristics of psychopath by Verstappen, it only five characteristics which is reflected in this novel, namely lack of remorse, grandiosity, compulsive lying, manipulative, and anti-social behavior. And the other characteristics like lack of empathy, superficiality, impulsive behavior, poor behavior control, and lacking goals are not shown in this novel.

Secondly, the types of psychopath in this novel is con artist and the victim. Not all types of psychopath by Verstappen reflected in this novel. Con artist is a psychopath who is good at manipulating, fluent lying, and distorting the facts. Con artist is also convincing others with such lies. And then the victim, this type includes the extreme psychopath. Because they use sex as a tool for achieving the objectives. Like as for getting the money, trust, job, or used to resuscitate someone. And the other types like narcissists, malevolent psychopath, professional psychopath, and secondary psychopath are not being listed in this novel.

Thirdly, the causes of psychopath in this novel is evolutionary perspective in causation. Family problem make the person can be a psychopath. Family problem that cannot be resolved culminate made a wife be a psychopath. In the family we should be open and accept a couple we are, because we are already committed to live together. If there is a problem to be solved properly either, not to blame each other and make one of the parties to be disappointed.

And the last is the reason why Gillian Flynn take a psychopath as a phenomenon. In one of interview on 2013 and after the researcher read and understands the story presented by Gillian Flynn, the researcher concludes that she wanted to tell the dark side of woman. She displays that a woman can also be just as ruthless as men, even more cruel than men and become a psychopath. She wants to arising the awareness to the public that woman also can be a psychopath, even though in the marriage.
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