

**FIRST DEGREE MURDER REFLECTED IN GILLIAN  
FLYNN'S GONE GIRL (2012) : A SOCIOLOGICAL  
PRESPECTIVE**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Getting Bachelor  
Degree of Education in English Department**

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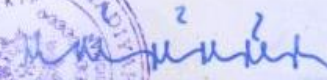
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## **FIRST DEGREE MURDER REFLECTED IN GILLIAN FLYNN'S GONE GIRL (2012): A SOCIOLOGICAL PRESPECTIVE**

### **Abstrak**

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi isu pembunuhan level pertama dalam novel *Gone Girl* (2012) karya Gillian Flynn. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori prespektif sosiologi. Jenis penelitian ini adalah penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode pengumpulan data dengan teknik *note taking*. Penelitian ini mempunyai dua sumber data yaitu data primer dan data sekunder. Novel *Gone Girl* karya Gillian Flynn sebagai data primer. Jurnal online, skripsi, situs web, artikel, biografi penulis dan referensi yang terkait dengan isu pembunuhan level pertama sebagai data sekunder. Penelitian ini mempunyai tujuan antara lain untuk mengidentifikasi indikator pembunuhan level pertama, untuk menjelaskan bagaimana pembunuhan level pertama digambarkan dalam novel dan untuk mengungkapkan alasan penulis mengangkat isu pembunuhan level pertama. Hasil dari penelitian ini antara lain (1) terdapat tiga indikator pembunuhan level pertama, yaitu keinginan/niat pembunuhan, pertimbangan dan persiapan pembunuhan, dan perencanaan pembunuhan (2) penulis menggambarkan isu pembunuhan level pertama melalui karakter, setting, peristiwa dan style, (3) penulis mengangkat isu pembunuhan level pertama karena penulis ingin menulis novel tentang hal-hal yang gelap, hal-hal yang rusak dan karakter wanita yang bermasalah.

**Kata kunci:** prespektif sosiologi, pembunuhan level pertama, novel *Gone Girl*

### **Abstract**

This study aims to identify the issue of first degree murder in *Gone Girl* (2012) novel by Gillian Flynn. This research uses theory of sociological prespective. The type of this study is qualitative descriptive. The method of collecting data in this research is note taking technique. This study has two data source, namely primary data and secondary data. *Gone Girl* novel by Gillian Flynn is the primary data source. Online journals, research paper, website, article and bibliography of the writer, that related with the issue of the murder are the secondary data. The purposes of this research are as follows to identify the indicator of first degree murder, to describe the first degree murder depicted in the novel and to reveal the reason why the author addressed the first degree murder in the novel. The results of this study are as follows (1) there are three indicators of first degree murder such as willfulness/intent, deliberation and premeditation, and malice aforethought (2) the author depicted the first degree murder through character, setting, event, and style, (3) the author addressed the issue of first degree murder because the author wanted to make a novel about dark things, breakage and trouble female character.

**Keyword:** sociological perspective, first degree murder, *Gone Girl* novel

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The issue chosen by the researcher in this research is the first degree murder in *Gone Girl* novel (2012) written by Gillian Flynn. First-degree murder is the most serious of all homicide offenses. It involves any intentional murder that is willful, deliberate and premeditated with *malice aforethought*. Premeditation requires that the defendant planned the murder before it was committed or was “lying in wait” for the victim. First-degree murder is usually defined as an unlawful killing that is deliberate, premeditated and willful. ([First-DegreeMurderLawJustia.htm](#)). Related to the explanation above, *Gone Girl* is one of the most global bestseller novels that tells about a woman’s mysteries which is related to first degree murder. This novel has been observed by other researchers with a different focus.

There are researchers who discussed *Gone Girl* as a material object and there is no researcher who discussed the issue of first degree murder. These studies can be classified into four categories; giving emphasis on the theoretical concepts of psychological and personality of the main character based on psychological approach are as follows Hudzaifah (2015), Wening (2016), Aditya (2016), Wahid (2016), Nuraeni, (2016) Rachmawaty (2017) and Syahidah (2017); focused on personality based on structural analysis, namely Khoiruddun, (2017); emphasis on female fatele based on feminism examined, such as Resti, Widya and Soelistyarini, (2016) and Indrasakti (2018); focused on relation between in-laws sociologically, namely Veraldy (2017).

Hudzaifah (2015), she focuses on describing the oppression in Amy’s childhood that affect her adult life psychologically. Wening (2016) conducted the research with the aim to identify the characteristics of antisocial personality disorder in Amy’s action and behaviour. Aditya (2016), she focuses on examining the conflicts that influenced the male and female central character. Wahid (2016), she focuses on describing the characteristic of psychopath, to analyze types of psychopath, to analyzed the cause of being of psychopath and to understand why the author opened to the public. Nuraeni (2016) , she focuses on analyzing the cause of Amy’s psychopath. Rachmawaty (2017), she aims to analyzing Amy’s

personality through her behavior. Syahidah, (2017), she aims to explain the psychopathic phenomenon on Amy. Khoiruddin (2017), he aims to find the differences between each characters. Resti, Widya and Diah, (2016) they aim to reveal the portrayal of femme fatale through the main character. Indrasakti (2018), she aims to give a deeper explanation about femme fatale figure in the novel. Veraldy (2017), He focuses on the relation between in-laws relationship that can create a conflict in the marital based on sociologically examined.

Based on the previous studies above, it is clear that there is no researcher who discussed *Gone Girl* novel with the issue of first degree murder. The researcher has two main reasons conducted this research. First, the researcher wants to explain the indicators of first degree murder. Secondly, the researcher wants to the society and the readers can distinguish murder, manslaughter, and justiable homicide. The researcher uses sociological perspective to make this research. This perspective will be used to analyze the relationship of literary work with the sociology of the society and to analyze the first degree murder. This research applied sociological perspective by Wellek and Warren (1948). According Wellek and Warren (1948) in their book *Theory of Literature*, the study of sociological literature is divided into three types; sociology of the society, sociology of the writer, and sociology of the reader.

## **2. METHOD**

The researcher conducts a study of qualitative research. According to Creswell (2009) qualitative research is a tools for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem. The process of research involves appearing questions and procedures, data typically collected in the participants setting, data analysis inductively building from particulars to general themes and the researcher making interpretations of the meaning data. The main issue of this research is first degree murder and it is analyzed by sociological perspective. The primary data source of this research is *Gone Girl* (2012) novel written by Gillian Flynn and published by Crown Publishing Group in June 2012. The secondary data source of this research is books, literary books, website,

article, bibliography of the author and virtual references that related to this research and other sources that related or supported to this research. The researcher uses the note-taking technique to collecting the data. Note taking means a complex activity that requires comprehension and selection of information and written production process (Piolat, Olive & Kellogg, 2005). There are seven steps in collecting the data as follows; (1) Reading *Gone Girl* (2012) novel by Gillian Flynn repeatedly , (2) Reading *Gone Girl* (2012) novel by Gillian Flynn in Bahasa to know the story better, (3) Browsing to the internet to find some data that related to the material object and theory, (4) Taking a notes from any sources that related to primary and secondary the data, (5) Underlying the words, phrase, sentences, and paragraph that related with this study, (6) Selecting particular parts that are considered important and relevant for analysis, (7) Drawing conclusion based on the analysis of the data. For the technique of data analysis, the researcher uses qualitative data analysis by Miles and Huberman (1994), as follow; (1) Data Reduction, (2) Data Display and (3) Conclusion Drawing and Verifying.

### **3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **3.1. The Indicator's of First Degree Murder**

Based on data found by the researcher in this novel there are three indicators of first degree murder, namely ; Willfulness/Intent, Deliberation and Premeditation, and Malice Aforethought.

##### **3.1.1 Willfulness/Intent**

Willfulness/Inttent refers to a person intent. The person had the intent to end human life. It is depicted when Amy lived with Desi, Desi is good man and he cares a alot about Amy. Unfortunately, Amy felt trapped with Desi. She wanted to come back to Nick but Desi did not let her go. So, in the end she has intend to kill Desi.

##### **3.1.2 Deliberation and Premeditation**

Deliberate act is one whrere individuals are aware of the consequences of thier actions. Amy is aware of what she is doing. She knows the consequences of her



action that her act will end of Desi's life. Her act is not provoked by outsider or forced by other people. She did the murder by herself. Premeditation can happen a short time before a murder committed. Amy makes a premeditation before she commits the murder. She prepares herself to Desi's favorite look. She seduced Desi and she also prepares sleeping pills so she can kill Desi easily.

### 3.1.3 Malice Aforethought

Malice aforethought is the evil intent and planning. Amy has evil intent before she commits the murder. Beside she has an evil intent to kill Desi she also makes a good plan to kill Desi. Amy set up the death of Desi. She seduces Desi and at the same time she gives him a drink that contains a sleeping pills. Then, she slices Desi's jugular with knife.

## **3.2 Depiction of First Degree Murder**

First degree murder in this novel is depicted through character, setting, event, and style.

### 3.2.1 Character

The characters that support the issue of first degree murder are killer character and victim character.

#### 3.2.1.1 Killer Character

It is the character who killing another character. Amy Elliot Dunne is the main character who commit a murder in *Gone Girl* novel. Amy is the diabolical dual protagonist and antagonist of who killed Desi because Desi was irritating her and manipulative her. She also wanted to go back to her old life. Her old life, her old money and her new Nick. By killing Desi is a way to go back her old life. She set up the death of Desi. In other words, her action is planned well. She makes a plan to kill Desi.

#### 3.2.1.2 Victim Character

It is the character who killed by another character. Desi is one the victim characters in the novel. He is Amy's ex-boyfriend when Amy in Senior High School. He helps Amy when she was in missing. Desi is a gentle type. He likes troubled woman. So, he helps Amy when she is in trouble. He brings Amy to his

house. He wants Amy to stay in his house because he still loves her but his way to treat Amy is not what Amy likes. It was annoying her. Moreover, Amy want to come back to Nick so she decides to kill him. It is the best way to go back her old life.

### 3.2.2. Setting

Based on the novel, the setting of the murder is in Desi's Manssion (Lake house). It happened in his own bedroom.

### 3.2.3. Event/Plot

#### 3.2.3.1 Penniless and on the run

Amy has masterminded her own disapperance and orchestrated the evidence left behind to frame Nick for her murder as away getting revenge. In the middle of her own disapperance she robbed by other people so she was penniless. In the end, she decided to call her ex-boy friend (Desi) to ask his help. She told a lie to Desi. She told that Nick abuse her so she run away from him. Desi believed her. Basically Desi liked trouble woman. Of course he would help her. In the end, Desi brought Amy to his house.

#### 3.2.3.2 Want to go Back Her Old Life

After Desi brought Amy to live with him she felt that Desi wanted Amy to live with him forever. Desi belived Amy will live with him forever. Amy wonder if she made a very big mistakes for called Desi. One day Amy wacth Nick's interview with Sharon Schieber. In this interview Amy found Nick saying exactly what she wanted to hear. She think that Nick had learned his lesson. So, she decided to go back to him. With go back to Nick she also go back to her old life. Her old money and her new Nick.

#### 3.2.3.3 Not Being Let Amy Go

After Desi and Amy wacthed Nick's interview, Desi felt insecure. Every day he will simpering around the house. He said to Amy tha she was safe and loved. He did not let her leave. It did not make Amy felt safe and loved. She felt like a prisoner in Desi's house. It was really bother her. She wanted to leave but Desi did not let her go. Then, she decides to make a plan so she can go back to her old life.

#### 3.2.3.4 The Murder

Desi did not let Amy go so Amy decided to murder him. She made a plan that look likes Desi kidnaped and abused her. With this story Amy can go back to her old-life. She is Amazing Amy, and she survived a brutal kidnapping involving repeated assaults. She also killed her captor, and she make it back to a husband that she discovered was cheating. Her plan is very good. She found a some twine in one corner basement. She used a steak knife to cut into four pieces. Everyday, she will tie the pieces as thight as she could around his wrist and ankle so they would leave a grooves. She also used a empty bottle wine. She abused herself with it everyday, so the inside of her vagina looked a rape victim. Finaly, she did the murder. She used a knife to cut Desi's neck.

#### 3.2.4. Style

##### 3.2.4.1. Figurative Language

The researcher found four figurative languages as follows; Firstly, metaphor refers to compare one thing to another thing. It's shown when telling about Amy's inner feeling to kill Desi. It is depicted in narration from Amy's point of view when she looks at Desi with disgust. Secondly, hyperbole shows in the death of Desi. Thirdly, simile shows in how Amy disgusts with the kiss of Desi when she does her plan before she kills Desi, *his kis like a fish* . Lastly, repetition. It shows when Amy decided to kill Desi. " I am ready. *Discipline*. This will tak *discipline* and focus.

##### 3.2.4.2. Symbolism

Delicate Flowers. It refers to Amy's look. She dresses herself in Desi's favorite look. This is one of her plan to kill Desi. She seduced Desi. In the middle of her plan she also give Desi drink. In his drink, Amy put sleeping pills so she can kill Desi easly

##### 3.2.4.3. Diction

Friends. It is a word that said by Amy when she has conversation with Nick. Nick asked Amy how she kills Desi. Amy explains to Nick her plan. She used a steak knife and sleeping pills to kill Desi. Nick wondering how Desi let Amy to keep a knife and sleeping pills. Then, Amy tells Nick that she and Desi is a Friends. So,

she can manipulate him.

### **3.3 Concern in First Degree Murder**

An authors certainly has their own inspiration to create their works, as well as Gillian Flynn. Gillian Flynn, in full is Gillian Schieber Flynn, she was born on February 24, 1971 in Kansas City, Missouri, U.S. She is the younger in her family. She was raised in Kansas City. She was the product of a movie-mad dad, a film professor at a local community college, and a book-mad mom.

She is American writer known for her darkly entertaining tales of murder, mystery and thrillers genre. Before she became a writer she studied at the University of Kansas, graduating in 1994 with a bachelor's degree in English and Journalism. Then two years later she studied at Northwestern University, graduating in 1997 with a master degree in Medil School of Journalism. Actually flynn wanted to become a crime reporter but she found herself unsuited for that job so she decided to become a full writer in 2008. One of the important reasons why Gillian Flynn addressed the issue of first degree murder because she thinks that every humans have dark side. When she was twenty years old, she read *And Then There Were None* novel by Agatha Christie. Agatha Christie made up her mind after she read the novel. She realized that the characters in the novel have a dark side that loved crimes and violence. Moreover, in her childhood, she was the product of a movie-mad dad. Her dad was a film professor and he loved to share movies, particularly with her. She loved to watch horror movies, loved to wander around her house imagining things in the closets. Thats way she was able to write a dark story and always been interested to write it.

The murder has not only been discussed in *Gone Girl* (2012) but also in her novel *Sharp Object* (2006) and *Dark Places* (2009). In *Sharp Object* (2006), the novel describes a newspaper reporter who returns to her hometown named Missouri to investigate the murders of young girls. In *Dark Places* (2009), the novel describes Libby Day, the novel's narrator and female protagonist who investigates whether or not her brother was truly responsible for the murder of their family in the 1980s.

In her interview at BBC News that published on July 11, 2018 she said that she wanted to write about dark things, damage, breakage, and trouble female character. In her opinion male characters were everywhere and have been for hundreds of years in literature. That was just been plain. She admits things have changed since her debut, with dark, complex characters now much more regular. She have written them ever since. She just can not to stop to write about dark things. She wanted to write another story without troubled, dark narrator but she can not write it. It is what she is interested in. She admits that *Gone Girl* "opened the door" to a wider variety of female characters. *Gone Girl* (2012) is one of her novel that has the issue of first degree murder with female character.

### **3.4 Discussion**

Based on the result of analyzing the finding in *Gone Girl* (2012) novel, the researcher found there is relation between this novel with the life experience of the author. The novel that she wrote was inspired by her young life experience when she read *And Then There Were None* novel by Agatha Christie. She realized that the characters in the novel have dark side that loved crime and violence. In her childhood, she was the product of a movie-mad dad. She loved to watch horror movies, loved to wander around her house imagining things in the closets. She liked those darker spots and always been attracted to that. She liked to write about dark things, breakage, screwed-up, and trouble female character because in her opinion male character were everywhere and have been for hundreds of years in literature. Based on the theory sociology of literature of Renne Wellek and Austin Warren (1993) literary works can reflect the life experience and the ideology of the author. This novel is on the hand an expression of the author's life experience and ideology. There is also a similarity and difference between this study and the existing research. The similarity with the previous research is research from Veraldy (2017). The study was giving emphasis on sociologically examined. The difference between this study and the existing research is the issue of the novel.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis and discussion on the previous chapter, the study comes to the following conclusions.

Firstly, there are three indicators of first degree murder depicted in the novel as follows; willfulness/intent, deliberation and premeditation, and malice aforethought. Willfulness/ intent refers to the Amy intends to kill Desi. Deliberation refers to Amy's aware, she knows the consequence of her action. Premeditation refers to Amy's premeditation before she commits the murder. Malice aforethought refers to Amy's evil intent and planning.

Secondly, the indicator of first degree murder depicted in the novel through characters, setting, event/plot, and style. The characters are classified into two categories as follow; killer character and victim character. The setting of conflict in Desi's house or Lake house. The events at the moment of the occurrences the murder are Amy was in penitence and on the run, she want to go back to her old life, Desi did not let her go and the murder. The styles that support issue first degree murder in the novel are figurative language, symbol, and diction.

Thirdly, the reason why Gillian Flynn addressed the murder in the novel is that she wanted to create a novel with dark things, breakage and trouble female character.

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