

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Everybody has a problem in their lives. No one lives in the world without having a problem. Generally, a kind of problem can motivate a person to do something better, so they feel challenged. But, there are many existing problems that can make uncomfortable and anxious. Sometimes, people are capable of solving the problem rationally by facing the problem properly. But sometimes people cannot resist the problem they have by solving it and the problem keeps spinning in their mind. This situation makes someone feels anxious. Some people try to reduce the anxiety by escaping the problem and getting happiness from the environment. In this real life, anxiety may be caused by scared of something, worried, frustrated, under pressured, and many more. Anxiety has seriously impact of day dreaming, less of focus, and feeling of scary anywhere. The person who feels anxious in their life may be haunted by unreal thing he or she never known what it is exactly. They just feel scare in their entire life.

There are two definitions of anxiety. First definition comes from Oxford Dictionary. It defines anxiety as (1) a nervous feeling caused by fear that something bad is going to happen, (2) a worry or fear about something, (3) a strong wish for something. Second definition brought by Sigmund Freud in his theory of psychoanalysis. He has two theories of anxiety, everyday anxiety and neurotic anxiety. Everyday anxiety is realistic anxiety which refers to real objects. It is often refer to fear rather than anxiety. While neurotic anxiety can take form of being free-floating, phobic, and a panic attack.

Anxiety as one of psychoanalytic principles is part of psychoanalytic studies. An French Physician, Sigmund Freud, found the psychoanalytic theory of human being personality in the early 1900s. The term of psychoanalysis has fundamental assumption that the mental element of human divided into two levels: The conscious (the rational) and the unconscious (the irrational). Then Freud described three components of personality; *Id*, *ego*, and *superego*. In the concept of psychoanalytic theory, anxiety is the most important. In defining anxiety, Freud emphasized that is “a self effective, unpleasant state, accompanied by a physical sensation that warn the person against impending danger. (Freud, 1938: 128)

The example of anxiety is reflected in *Dark Places* novel. *Dark Places* is a novel written by Gillian Flynn. This novel is published in 2009. It has three hundreds and forty-nine pages. This novel tells about Libby escaped a massacre in her own home, in which both of her sisters and her mother were killed. Her brother was convicted of the murders as Libby testified against him and sentenced to life in prison. Libby has no contact with her brother, is quite challenged and lives off of money people gave to help her when the case was popular. She is informed that money is almost over and begins to think what to do to get it back. She meets a man called Lyle, who runs a Kill Club. Kill Club is a club for people who are obsessed with murders, killers and such. She begins doing things for them for money. They are convinced her brother Ben was wrongly convicted, and pay her to research the crime talk to her brother, visit him in jail, talk to her estranged dad et cetera. Many strange things surface, Ben was supposedly a Devil worshipper, her father was violent and wanted money, but we also find out her mother was going to lose the farm they all lived on because she owed money.

The story is told from a few points of view including the past. Libby tracks down an old girlfriend of Ben's, Diondra, who was pregnant at the time

of the murders and disappeared. She finds her and visits, and is shocked to meet Crystal, her niece, alive and well. Diondra and Crystal attack and try to kill her, but Libby escapes once again. Diondra is found and arrested, while her daughter remains in hiding. It turns out Diondra and Ben wanted to escape, but one of Libby's sisters caught them and threatened to tell everyone about the pregnancy. Diondra attacked her, enraged, and strangled her enraged, and strangled her. As this was happening, a man entered their home. Nobody knew that their mother had met up with a man earlier, who promised her a better future for her children. He would kill her better future for her children. He would kill her and the kids would get her life insurance, pay off kids would get her life insurance, pay off the debts and be happy, but she would have to die. She agreed to this, thinking it was for the best. As the men came into the house, Libby's mother prepared to die, but the other sister waddled in, surprising the killer. He ended up killing both the mother and the child as she was a witness. He is convicted as he has committed many similar crimes, and does not confess to any of them, except to the murder of Libby's sister, which has been haunting him for years. As the novel ends, Ben is released from prison and vows to start with small changes, reuniting with Libby and maybe even finding Crystal, who is still on the run.

Dark Places is a well known novel which has positive responses. More than hundreds positive responses, but here, the researchers will only show three responses because this research is not about reader responses. First positive response comes from Raeleen Lemay. She gave four scores for Flynn's *Dark Places*. She said that she was totally enjoyed reading the novel. The story and characters were so twisted, and the last hour or so of the audio book was insane. (<https://goodreads.com>)

The second one comes from Ellen Hopkins. She also rated four scores. She said that the voice was better in *Gone Girl*. *Dark Places* had a better ending than another novel of Flynn. Ellen figured out the big reveal before the end of

the book. She believed that it was hard for Flynn in writing the novel, because the readers read in a different eye. (<https://goodreads.com>)

The last comes from Emily May. She rated it perfectly, five scores. She highly recommended the novel. She loved the writing style and characterization. She also thought that Flynn is a fantastic author and furthermore she was so hooked by the mystery right away. She also interested with the ending of the novel. (<https://goodreads.com>)

In the other hand, there is also negative response. The first negative response comes from Katie. She only rated two for Flynn's novel. She said that reading Flynn's books always made her felt like she needed to get in tub and scrubbed her self clean. It was because Flynn's novels were dark, dirty, disturbing, and disgusting. She thought that the end of *Dark Places* was hastily written and disappointingly tidy. (<https://goodreads.com>)

The second comes from Ferdy. He also rated two for Flynn's novel. He explained that the characters were all unlikeable, which would have been fine if they'd at least been somewhat interesting but sadly, most of them were dull. The murder mystery or investigation was mildly engrossing, but the reveal in the end was majorly disappointing. (<https://goodreads.com>)

There are three reasons why the writer interested in analyzing this novel. First, the writer is interested with the title. It seems so horror and full of challenging in reading. Second, this novel makes everyone curious about the reasons why Libby feels anxious so she builds her mind up to recall her past. This novel has a mystery that readers are wondering truth. This novel teaches us to respect each other brothers and sisters. There are so many questions turn up after reading this Flynn's novel. The writer so curious about the question "Why does Libby feel anxious along her life?" and "What is the reason of Libby in recalling her bad past memory?" and the last reason is about the structural elements of the novel, especially the plot and the character. The plot is wonderful so the readers never bored. The writing type of Flynn is great

because she can cover a mystery story with her touching language. Flynn plays the character perfectly.

Based on the background above, the researcher proposes to conduct a research entitled “Anxiety Reflected in *Dark Places* Gillian Flynn’s (2009): A Psychoanalytic Perspective.”

B. Problem Statement

The problem statements of this research are:

1. What are the indicators of anxiety?
2. How is the anxiety reflected in the novel?
3. What type of anxiety is dominant?
4. Why did Gillian Flynn address anxiety in the novel?

C. Objectives of the Study

1. To identify the indicators of anxiety in the novel.
2. To describe how anxiety is reflected in the novel.
3. To find out the dominant type of anxiety in dominant in the novel.
4. To reveal the reasons why Gillian Flynn addresses anxiety in the novel.

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses on the research in analyzing the anxiety reflected in Gillian Flynn’s *Dark Places* (2009) based on psychoanalytic perspective.

E. Benefit of the Study

The study is expected to give benefits as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The writer this study can impact a new contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, especially the literary study on *Dark Places* novel (2009).

2. Practical Benefit

This study is wished to give deeper understanding and enrich both knowledge and experience especially for the writer.

F. Paper Organization

The organization of this study is explained in order the reader can understand the content of the paper easier. The organizations are as follows: Chapter I is introduction, which contains background of the study, problem statements, objectives of the study, limitation of the study, the benefit of the study, and paper organization. Chapter II is literature review; it describes underlying theory, previous studies. Chapter III is research method; it contains type of research, object of the study, type of data and data source, technique of data collection, and technique of data analysis. Chapter IV is the analysis. Chapter V is the last chapter of this research paper of this research that consists of conclusion, suggestion, pedagogical implication.