

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Everyone certainly ever experience negative events. It could be extremely frightening experiences which sometime cannot be forgotten. People who experience unforgettable negative event typically may cause a trauma. The emotional wound caused by negative event that potentially generate to trauma such as emotional, physical and sexual abuse, bullying, neglect, witnessing violence, serious accident or injuries, abandonment, separation etc. (Liddle *et al* 5) This shocking event and/or extremely frightening experiences may resulting negative effects on a person, particularly to disrupting the path of healthy physical, emotional and intellectual development (Liddle *et al* 5).

In addition, Brandell states “Trauma an emotional shock that creates substantial and lasting damage to the psychological development of individual, generally leading to neuroses; something that severely jars the mind or emotion” (qtd. In Trauma and Young Offenders 6). It means that trauma is emotional shock that can damage the psychological of person and leading to neuroses.

Based on Whitehead mostly literary critics have traditionally performed psychological literary criticism by focusing on one particular psychological theory and applying it to all works of all authors (89). It is widely recognized, all of that almost exclusively accepted, personality theory used in psychological literary criticism has been either Freudian or non-Freudian psychoanalysis. As Freud is written by Whitehead (89) himself did, critics have sometimes matched psychoanalytic thought to works and authors with which it is compatible, but more often they have ruthlessly superimposed psychoanalytic ideas on works that yield little but clichés to such an imposition (qtd. In Whitehead 89).

It is because personality theories is the branch of psychology which is most relevant to psychology literary criticism and the personality theories itself is both the most comprehensive and specific theory in author's repertoire. And other theories such as personal theories of time, history, justice, religion etc. will proceed from and be informed by personality theories. Whitehead strengthens the point by giving statement "The informal implicit theory of an author, critic, or reader will more or less match one of the formal, explicit theories already developed by personality theorists" (89).

She adds,

In order to engage intelligently in psychological literary criticism, the psychological literary critic must have an extensive knowledge not only of the twenty or more formal personality theories included in college texts on the subject but also of the philosophy of science and history of ideas as these are related to the theories. The reader who would understand psychological literary criticism needs a general acquaintance with the same topics, although perhaps not the extensive or detailed knowledge of the critic. (Whitehead 89)

This study will use psychoanalytic by Sigmund Freud to elaborate the causes of trauma and its impact. Psychoanalytic is an approach that focused and elaborated what is a neuroses, what caused neuroses, any kind of anxiety and the disorder which caused by childhood trauma. Psychoanalytic is the most famous of all personality theories. In the other hand, Psychoanalysis define as the form of therapy, the cure treatment of neuroses. "Psychoanalysis itself is a form of therapy which aims to cure mental disorder by investigating the interaction of conscious and unconscious elements in the mind" (Breuer and Freud 21). Freud's observation on this treatment had reached the stage where the root of the mental problems, known as neuroses and/or other symptom can be found by reviewing the adverse memories.

Nearly every researcher agrees that early childhood traumas (i.e. those that happen before the age of six) lie at the root of most long-term depression and anxiety, and many emotional and psychological illnesses, such as; major depressive disorder, anxiety, bi-polar disorder, and personality disorder. Trauma can alter the very chemistry and physiology of the brain itself. Among mental health professionals and childhood developmental specialists, there is sometimes a lack of understanding over exactly what constitutes childhood trauma (Murray, p.1)

Based on Murray traumas which occurred before six age called childhood trauma. Those cases are very commonly happen to children. Children who experiences traumas in childhood typically will suffered depression, anxiety, psychological and emotional illness or personality disorder. Childhood traumas also alter the chemistry and physiology of the brain which disrupting the mental health.

The childhood trauma experiences are not only extremely common, they also eliciting profound impact on many different areas of functioning. “The evidence suggest that those who suffer from particular childhood and adolescent traumas are also more likely to suffer from other traumatic events than those who do not” (Liddle *et al*

15) for example, children witnessing then exposed the violence rarely have secure childhoods. The impact tends to be pervasively. It is including depression, various mental illness, and self-destructive behaviors.

There are many kinds of psychological illnesses that cause by childhood trauma. One of that is abuse. This study show the impact of physical abuse evoke the hysteria disorder or conversion disorder and psychogenic stuttering. Freud (Feist and Feist 19) defines hysteria as “a disorder typically characterized by paralysis or the improper functioning of certain parts of the body.” the paralysis functional of certain parts of the body occurs because of brain disturbance. While Raphael and Schoenfeld (15) state that psychogenic stuttering the reaction of conversion disorder or hysteria which that due to a psychological stress experienced.

Phenomenon above manifested in the David Cronenberg movie entitled *A Dangerous Method*. A Russian young girl named Sabina Spielrein, Dr. Carl Gustav Jung's patient, suffered Hysteria disorder, now formerly known as Conversion Disorder. Dr. Carl Jung applied 'talking cure' treatment of psychoanalysis to his hysteria patient. Sabina's illness known as hysteria comes from some kind of her childhood trauma. She was experienced the physical abuse from her

father, after that she began to liking a humiliation, she find out the humiliation around her and enjoy it by increasing her erotically exciting.

One of the example of hysteria phenomenon reflected in *A Dangerous Method* movie include the emotional outbreak and cerebral disturbance that cause the sensory functional error is when Dr. Jung claim that he cannot continue the treatment to Sabina Spielrein for a while because he got a duty for military service but Sabina got darkens and mad. “It’s all waste of time. I can’t tell you whatever it is you want to know, you’re just making me angry...and if I did tell you, you’d be sorry you ever...anyway, there’s nothing wrong with me! I don’t even want to get better!” (00:07:33 – 00:07:47). That’s one of the example of emotional outbreak reflected in Sabina spielrein, her emotional was uncontrollable when she knew that Dr. Jung must go to military service. Another example of hysteria phenomenon is sensory function errors which happened toward Sabina. The type of sensory function errors experienced by Sabina is Psychogenic Stuttering. It occurs when patient recollects her traumas “hu...hu...uu...hum...humiliation” (00:03:09 – 00:03:17). Dr. Jung asked to her patient about the factor that brought her to that attacks, she recollects her memories and occurs sensory function errors. She has a trouble to say the word humiliation.

Using Psychoanalytic theory of Sigmund Freud, the writer will focused on the causes of Childhood Trauma and the impacts of Childhood Trauma experienced by Sabina Spielrein, as the female main character of *A Dangerous Method* movie by David Cronenberg.

B. Problem Formulation

This study formulates the statement of the problems as follows:

1. What make Sabina Spielrein in *A Dangerous Method* Movie experience a childhood trauma?
2. What impacts of the Childhood Trauma toward Sabina Spielrein in *A Dangerous Method* Movie?

C. Limitation of the Study

To analyze *A Dangerous Method* movie, this study needs to make limitation. Based on the problems above, the study wants to limit the problem here only on the analysis of the causes and its impact of Childhood Trauma that portrait in Sabina Spielrein in *A Dangerous Method* movie.

D. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem cited above, this study proposes the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To identify the causes of Childhood Trauma experienced by Sabina Spielrein portrayed in *A Dangerous Method*

2. To elaborate the impact of Childhood Trauma experienced by Sabina Spielrein portrayed in *A Dangerous Method*

E. Significance of the Study

The result of this study is expected to be helpful in the following ways:

1. This study is expected to be one of the references in analyzing literary works such as movies, novels, poems, drama etc. for students of English Literature.
2. This study can be a source of information relating to the discussion in psychological approach primarily psychoanalysis.
3. This study expected to be able to give a source of information about childhood trauma and its impact.

F. Organization of the Study

This Final Project is systematically organized in chapters. Each chapter will discuss different matter. The first chapter provides introduction that consists of these matter: Background of the Study, Problem Formulation, Limitation of the Study, Objective of the Study, Significance of the Study and Organization of the Study. The second chapter is about Review of the Related Literature that covers Synopsis, Sigmund Freud's Psychoanalytic, Trauma, Definition of Trauma, Causes of Trauma, Impact of Trauma, Hysteria Disorder, and Speech

Disorder. The Third Chapter contains Methodology Research which deals with Object of the Study, Types of the Data, Data Collecting Method, and Technique of Analysis Data. The fourth Chapter contain Research finding which deals with the causes of trauma and the impact of childhood trauma experienced by Sabina Spielrein as a female main character in David Cronenberg's movie entitled *A Dangerous Method*. The fifth Chapter contains the Conclusion and Suggestions.