

**HISTRIONIC PERSONALITY DISORDER IN THE *YOUNG
ADULT* (2011) MOVIE: A CASE STUDY OF THE MAIN
CHARACTER MAVIS GARY**

A FINAL PROJECT

**Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
to Obtain the *Sarjana* Sastra Degree in English Literature**



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**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND COMMUNICATION SCIENCE
SULTAN AGUNG ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY
SEMARANG**

2024

PAGE OF APPROVAL

A Final Project Entitled

HISTRIONIC PERSONALITY DISORDER IN THE *YOUNG ADULT* (2011)

MOVIE: A CASE STUDY OF THE MAIN CHARACTER MAVIS GARY

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Semarang, May 20th 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Afina Murtiningrum', is written over the printed name.

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PAGE OF VALIDATION

A *Sarjana Sastra* Final Project on

HISTRIONIC PERSONALITY DISORDER IN THE *YOUNG ADULT* (2011)
MOVIE: A CASE STUDY OF THE MAIN CHARACTER MAVIS GARY

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on May 31st 2024
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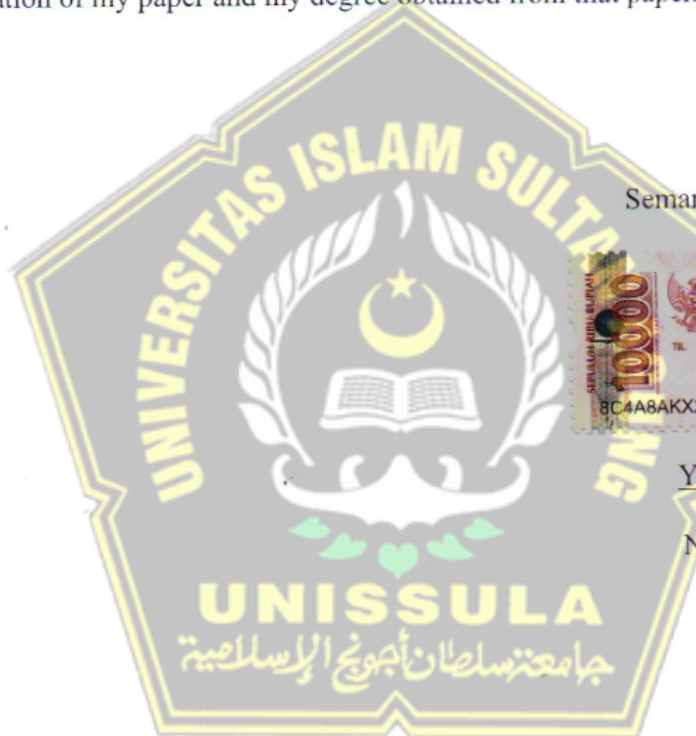


UNISSULA
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STATEMENT OF WORK'S ORIGINALITY

Hereby, I honestly declare that the undergraduate thesis I wrote does not contain the work or part of the work of other people, except those which were cited in the quotations and the references, as a scientific paper should. If my statement is not valid in the future, I absolutely agree to accept an academic sanction in the form of revocation of my paper and my degree obtained from that paper.

Semarang, June 5th 2024



Yuniar Intan Pratiwi

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MOTTO

“True revenge is to be strong, to survive, to protect.”

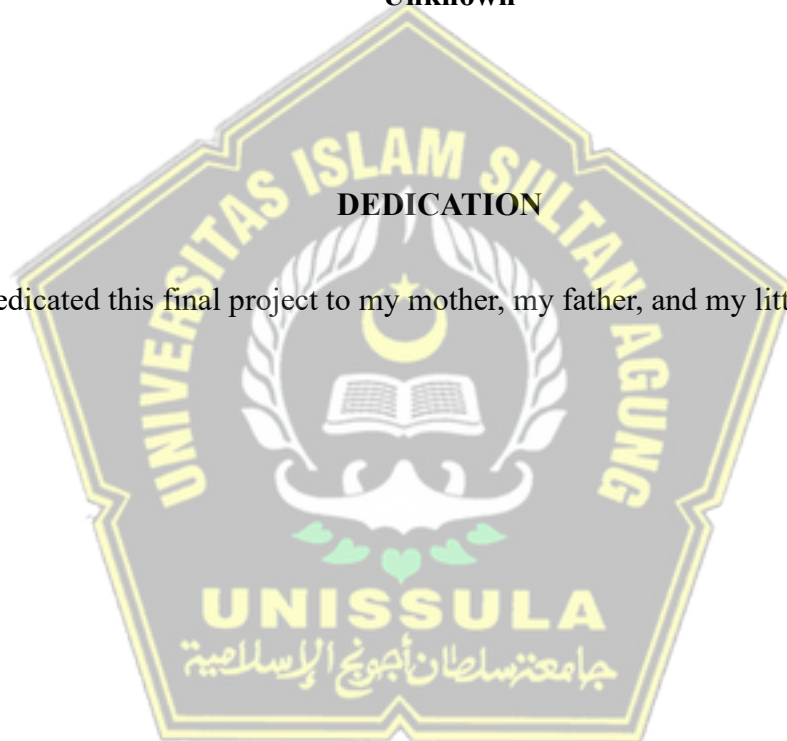
- **Kim Namjoon of BTS**

“It’s all about perspective. You can turn every situation into a good one if you change your perspective about it”

- **Unknown**

DEDICATION

I dedicated this final project to my mother, my father, and my little brother.



ABSTRACT

Pratiwi, Yuniar Intan. 30802000048. Histrionic Personality Disorder in The *Young Adult* Movie (2011): A Case Study of The Main Character Mavis Gary English Literature Study Program. Faculty of Languages and Communication Science. Sultan Agung Islamic University Semarang. Advisor: Afina Murtiningrum, S.S., M.M., MA

Histrionic personality disorder is reserved for people who are overly dramatic and attention-seeking. A depiction of a character with histrionic personality disorder is displayed in Mavis Gary in the *Young Adult* (2011) movie. Thus, this study aims to identify the diagnostic criteria of histrionic personality disorder in the main character Mavis Gary. This study also discover the causes of histrionic personality disorder in the main character Mavis Gary.

This study was conducted by applying a psychological approach using a theory of Personality Disorder by the *American Psychiatric Association* (APA) and analyzing the causes using Jeffrey J. Magnavita's theory, who is one of the members of the *American Psychiatric Association*. This study used a qualitative method to analyze since the data of this study are in the form of dialogues and narrations. The primary data sources were the *Young Adult* (2011) movie script, and the secondary data sources were from books and journals.

The result of this study concludes that Mavis Gray is diagnosed with histrionic personality disorder by fulfilling seven out of eight diagnostic criteria, that is, attention seeking, having interactions with others often characterized by inappropriate sexual behavior, using physical appearance to draw attention, having a speaking style that is too impressive and lacking in details, exhibiting self-dramatization and theatrical, being suggestive, and considering the relationship to be more intimate. Furthermore, the causes of Mavis Gary have histrionic personality disorder are traumatic events when she experienced a miscarriage that occurred in the past and also family dysfunction which also has an impact on her personality disorder.

Keywords: *histrionic personality disorder, traumatic events, family dysfunction, young adult (2011), psychoanalysis*

INTISARI

Pratiwi, Yuniar Intan. 30802000048. “Histrionic Personality Disorder in The *Young Adult* Movie (2011): A Case Study of The Main Character Mavis Gary.” Program Studi Sastra Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa dan Ilmu Komunikasi. Universitas Islam Sultan Agung. Pembimbing: Afina Murtiningrum, S.S., M.M., MA

Gangguan kepribadian histrionik disematkan bagi orang-orang yang terlalu dramatis dan mencari perhatian. Penggambaran tokoh penderita gangguan kepribadian histrionik ditampilkan pada Mavis Gary dalam film *Young Adult* (2011). Oleh karena itu, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi kriteria diagnostik gangguan kepribadian histrionik pada tokoh utama film tersebut. Selain itu, penelitian ini juga untuk menemukan penyebab terjadinya gangguan kepribadian histrionik tersebut.

Penelitian ini dilakukan dengan menerapkan pendekatan psikologis menggunakan teori Personality Disorder dari *American Psychiatric Association* (APA) dan menganalisis penyebabnya menggunakan teori Jeffrey J. Magnavita yang merupakan salah satu anggota *American Psychiatric Association*. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif untuk menganalisis karena data penelitian ini berupa dialog dan narasi. Sumber data primer adalah film *Young Adult* (2011), dan sumber data sekunder adalah dari buku dan jurnal.

Hasil penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa Mavis Gray didiagnosis menderita gangguan kepribadian histrionik dengan memenuhi tujuh dari delapan kriteria diagnostik, yaitu mencari perhatian, melakukan rayuan seksual yang tidak pantas, menggunakan penampilan fisik untuk menarik perhatian, gaya bicara yang terlalu berkesan namun kurang detail, mendramatisasi diri dan teatrikal, sugestif, dan keinginan hubungan menjadi lebih intim. Lebih lanjut, penyebab Mavis Gary mengalami gangguan kepribadian histrionik adalah peristiwa traumatis ketika dia keguguran yang terjadi di masa lalu dan juga disfungsi keluarga yang juga berdampak pada gangguan kepribadiannya.

Kata kunci: gangguan kepribadian histrionik, peristiwa traumatis, disfungsi keluarga, *young adult* (2011), psikoanalisis

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Allah *Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala*, for the blessing, endless love, and mercy also constant health without whom I could not have finished this final project. Also, *shalawat and salam* are always conveyed to our prophet Muhammad *Shallallahu 'Alaihi wa Sallam*, who saved us from the darkness and guided us to the right path named Islam.

In addition, I realize that this final project would not have been completed without the help, guidance, and support of several parties involved. Therefore, through this opportunity, I want to give my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the people around me who have given many support, advice, and criticism, especially to:

1. Trimanah, S. Sos., M.Si., as the Dean of Faculty of Languages and Communication Science.
2. Destary Praptawati, S.S., M. Hum as the Head of English Literature Study Program.
3. Afina Murtiningrum S.S., MM., MA as the advisor of this final project who always patiently guided and gave me advice and corrections in the process of making this final project. Also, as my academic advisor since the first semester who always gives me guidance, support, and encouragement from the preliminary of this final project until the end.

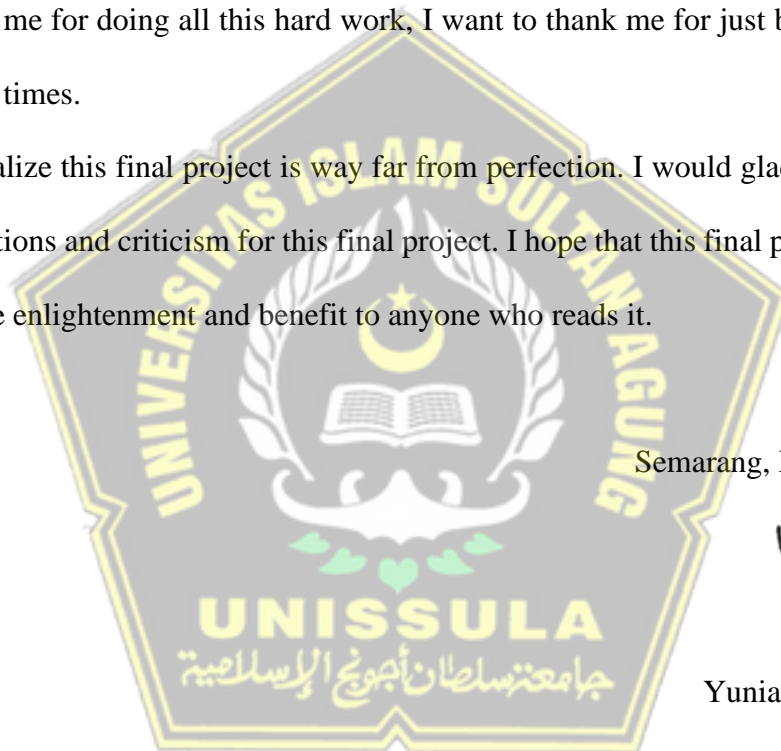
4. All lecturers of the English Literature Study Program at Sultan Agung Islamic University who have given and taught me extraordinary and useful knowledge.
5. My parents, my beloved father Baru Pujatmiko, and my beloved mother Titin Jatmiko, have been the best parents to me who have sacrificed their time, energy, and money to support me from the beginning. Thank you for your endless support and unwavering prayers so that I can complete this final project.
6. My beloved little brother, Katon Akbar Tirtana, who always gives me support and comfort, you will always be my best little brother.
7. My big family, which I cannot mention all for understanding and blessing me.
8. My group of best friends from high school, I want to thank them for their continuous support, encouragement, and for being someone that I can ask or share anything both personal and professional.
9. My group of best friends at college, Ayuk, Dina, Risda, Alifya, Chiqa, Qoirunnisa, Lina, Malla, Nia, and many more who contributed to my final project journey. A big thank you to everyone for all the support, encouragement, feedback, and motivation.
10. All of my English Literature 2020 classmates. I appreciate your love, kindness, and support. Thank you for being a part of my college life.
11. To Bangtan Boys (BTS), Kim Namjoon, Kim Seokjin, Min Yoongi, Jung Hoseok, Park Jimin, Kim Taehyung, and Jeon Jungkook, who indirectly

motivated me through their music, and also became my inspiration to complete the process of writing this final project.

12. For everyone that I cannot name one by one who is always sending prayers and supporting me to finish this final project. I am sorry if I missed someone unknowingly.

13. Last but not least, I want to thank me for believing in me, I want to thank me for doing all this hard work, I want to thank me for just being me at all times.

I do realize this final project is way far from perfection. I would gladly accept any suggestions and criticism for this final project. I hope that this final project can still provide enlightenment and benefit to anyone who reads it.



Semarang, May 20th 2024

Yuniar Intan Pratiwi

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literary works generally use objects that describe human life for discussion. Literary works convey an understanding of life in its way. What is described in literary works is of course about life experiences that happened in the past and dreams about the future. There are many types of literary works, one of which is movies. A movie is one of the literary works that can give an impression to the audience so that they can get valuable learning from watching movies. Based on *A Glossary of Literary Terms* reveals that the audience can conclude characterizations by knowing the feelings and desires of the characters through the dialogue or acting that is played, expressed, and shown by the characters in the story (20). The way a character acts can tell us about their background and personality is a form of characterization.

According to *Theodore Millon*, the personality of an individual influences how he acts and it influences his perception of himself and others. Personality is what makes us who we are and what makes us different from other people (2). While people have different personalities, there are some common behaviors and thought patterns that are characteristic of a healthy personality. Whereas someone who is considered to have a personality disorder, he or she usually has deviant personality traits and often shows dysfunctional thought patterns and uncontrolled emotions.

Personality disorders are related to a person's pathological personality traits that have developed throughout their life. People with personality disorders often do not feel guilty about their maladaptive behavior towards society. According to *Kring*, a person with a personality disorder usually has difficulty with identity and relationships in various areas of their social life, and these problems will persist for years. Cognition, emotions, relationships, and impulse control are personality problems that are evident in the life of a person with a personality disorder (464). Usually, people with personality disorders often show extreme deviations from individuals in general in providing social interactions, especially relationships with other people.

American Psychiatric Association in the *DSM-V-TR (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders)* divides personality disorders into ten types. “They are Paranoid Personality Disorder, Schizoid Personality Disorder, Schizotypal Personality Disorder, Antisocial Personality Disorder, Borderline Personality Disorder, Histrionic Personality Disorder, Narcissistic Personality Disorder, Avoidant Personality Disorder, Dependent Personality Disorder, and Obsessive Personality Disorder” (733). However, this research focuses only on Histrionic personality disorder.

Histrionic personality disorder was previously referred to as *hysterical* personality. As described in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th Edition (DSM-V-TR; American Psychiatric Association)*, histrionic personality disorder is a clinical syndrome in which individuals display an interactional style characterized by seductive, emotionally shallow, and dramatic.

In addition, individuals diagnosed with histrionic personality disorder are motivated to seek attention, flirt, or be sexually provocative with others, using a highly theatrical style, and often consider the relationship more intimate to others (733).

This study specifically focuses on the description of histrionic personality disorder. The representation of a fictional character with histrionic personality disorder is fictionally featured in *Young Adult*, a movie directed by Jason Reitman, and written by Diablo Cody in 2011, which depicts the movie's main character, Mavis Gary who tends to suffer from histrionic personality disorder pathological. This movie tells about a 37-year-old woman named Mavis Gary, played by Keri Russell who lives in Minneapolis and works as a ghostwriter for a youth serial novel. Then when she heard that her ex-boyfriend from high school had just had a child, Mavis always decided to return to her hometown to reclaim her ex-boyfriend.

There has been previous research related to this research. A study by Jeremy Clyman in 2012 entitled *Young Adult: The New Borderline Personality Disorder in Cinema*. This study analyzed the main character Mavis Gary who expressed borderline personality disorder. This study has a different perception of analyzing the personality disorder through understanding the intention of her acts.

Based on the previous research, in addition to borderline personality disorder, this research finds a strong histrionic personality disorder in the character of Mavis Gary. Histrionic can happen to anyone. There are a lot of questions about psychology, and not everyone knows the terminology of histrionic. Mavis Gary seems to be incapable of being happy. She has just gone through a divorce from a loveless marriage. An unresolved relationship and possibly traumatic past event

where she miscarried while with her buddy. Having a miscarriage before breaking up with first love is a plausible example of how the mindset of histrionic personality disorder hardens.

This study finds seven out of eight diagnostic criteria of histrionic personality disorder which was shown in Mavis Gary's behavior. She has a constant need for attention from everyone; she is characterized by unpredictable behavior attention and affective instability when Mavis is not getting attention, she becomes aggressive; for example, when she almost violently assaults a bookseller who does not do what she wants.

Based on all the explanations above, this study focuses on the diagnostic criteria of histrionic personality disorder and the causes of histrionic personality disorder in the *Young Adult* (2011) movie. Therefore, the title of this study is *Histrionic Personality Disorder in the Young Adult Movie (2011): A Case Study of the Main Character Mavis Gary*.

B. Problems Formulation

Based on the research background, this research answers two research questions:

1. What are the diagnostic criteria of histrionic personality disorder reflected in the main character Mavis Gary in *Young Adult* (2011) movie?
2. What are the causes of histrionic personality disorder depicted in the main character Mavis Gary in *Young Adult* (2011) movie?

C. Limitation of the Study

This research only focuses on the personality disorder that is owned by the main character Mavis Gary. Past life experiences and trauma that resulted in Mavis Gary's histrionic personality disorder are portrayed in the movie *Young Adult* (2011).

D. Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem formulation above, this study formulates the objective of the study as follows:

1. To find the diagnostic criteria of histrionic personality disorder in the main character Mavis Gary.
2. To discover the causes of histrionic personality disorder reflected in Mavis Gary.

E. Significance of the Study

It is appropriate that every literary work can be a good example of a component of reading or viewing sources. Movie *Young Adult* (2011) is a literary work, which provides benefits for its readers as written below:

1. The results of this study are expected to broaden knowledge and understanding of the relationship between psychology and literature, especially regarding histrionic personality disorder.

2. It is hoped that this research can be useful in providing a deeper understanding of movies and adding references to movie lovers, especially viewers of the movie *Young Adult (2011)*.
3. This research can be a reference for future researchers as research on several initial topics and references for further research on the movie *Young Adult (2011)*.

F. Organization of the Study

There are five chapters in this study that show organizational systematic. Each chapter will discuss various matters as follows. Chapter I contains an Introduction; this chapter contains an overview of the issues to be discussed. It consists of three things: Background of The Study, Problem Formulation, Limitation of the Study, Objectives of the Study, Significance of the Study, and Organization of the Study. Chapter II contains the Review of Related Literature and Synopsis of the movie *Young Adult (2011)*, this chapter contains the theory that will be used as a basis for conducting research. Chapter III contains Types of Research and Data Organizing. This chapter discusses the research approach and methods used in this study. Chapter IV contains the Findings and Discussion. Chapter V is divided into two parts, namely Conclusions and Suggestions, concluding the analysis carried out in the previous chapter.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A. Synopsis of *Young Adult* Movie

Young Adult (2011) tells the story of a 37-year-old woman named Mavis Gary, played by Keri Russell who lives in Minneapolis and works as a ghostwriter for a youth serial novel. The movie begins by showing Mavis who has just woken up in her apartment. Mavis is divorced from her husband and lives in a small apartment with her dog. She opens an email from her ex-boyfriend, Buddy Slade, who is celebrating the birth of his first daughter. Mavis who has a high suggestive level can be seen in how easily she is influenced by what she believes. After contemplating the email for a while, Mavis takes it as a sign that he wishes to rekindle their love affair, and she realizes that she still has feelings of love for Buddy. She finally decides to return to her hometown of Mercury and devises a plan to separate Buddy from his wife.

Mavis arrives in her hometown. Instead of going home to her parents, Mavis prefers to stay at a hotel. This shows how Mavis and her family are not in a good relationship. Furthermore, Mavis called Buddy Slade, her ex-boyfriend from high school, but her calls went unanswered. Mavis decides to go out to a small café in the middle of town. Arriving in front of the café, Mavis's phone rings and it turns out that it is Buddy who had called back. Then they made an appointment to meet tomorrow at 6 o'clock at a Champion O'Mellie café.

In the cafe, Mavis unexpectedly meets her high school friend, Matt. Matt asks Mavis what her purpose is in returning to Mercury. Mavis replies lying if she has a property business. Moments later, Mavis takes Matt outside the cafe, she tells the truth to Matt about her intention to return to Mercury to get Buddy. Mavis emphatically says that Buddy is not happily married, feels miserable having children, and calls Buddy like a zombie, a dead person. However when Matt asks, how Mavis knew that Buddy was not happy, she could not prove it with facts. Matt knows that Buddy is married and has children, so he tells Mavis not to interfere with Buddy's life. Mavis does not listen to Matt and just walks away.

The day Mavis has been waiting for finally comes, she does some self-care to make her look prettier before meeting Buddy. She has never done self-care before. Mavis arrives at the cafe, she is wearing a sexy dress. While waiting for Mavis to make a move to raise her breasts as a symbol to seduce Buddy. It does not take long for Buddy Slade to arrive. They talk a lot, not forgetting the teasing from Mavis. Before they go home, at the parking lot, Buddy tells Mavis that tomorrow night, the local band played by Beth, Buddy's wife, will perform at the same cafe. He invites Mavis to come to his house and go together to see Beth perform. An offer Mavis can not refuse.

Mavis goes to the salon and clothing store to buy clothes to meet Buddy. Then, she goes to a bookstore and buys the novel to give to Buddy's nephew. After finishing dressing up beautifully, Mavis goes to Buddy's house and she is greeted warmly by Buddy and his wife. Even in front of his wife, it is obvious

that Mavis is trying to seduce Buddy by telling him how intimate their relationship was in the past.

The scene moves to O'Melly's champion cafe, where the band members are doing a check song before the performance. Not long after, the band is singing an old song presented by Beth to Buddy. Instead of enjoying it, Mavis looks very annoyed for a few moments, because the song is her favorite song with Buddy in the past. Mavis tries to seduce Buddy, she clings to Buddy's body. The band's performance is over and Buddy wants to come home, but Beth still wants to celebrate with her friends. Mavis offers to drive Buddy home. When they get home, Mavis tries to be even more intimate with Buddy. Mavis teases Buddy until they kiss and the babysitter finds out. Mavis goes back to the hotel and she is drunk.

Unsuspectedly, while Mavis is having breakfast, she gets a call from Buddy to attend his daughter's naming event on Saturday. After breakfast, Mavis goes for a walk and meets her mother to take her home. When she gets to Mavis' house, she is not pleased to meet her stepfather. At lunch with her mother and stepfather, Mavis says she met Buddy. Hedda, Mavis's mother, feels that something would go wrong with her daughter after hearing that.

On Saturday, Mavis goes to the salon again to do some makeup before going over to Buddy's house. Mavis enters Buddy's house and immediately hugs Buddy's mother who does not like Mavis coming. Mavis approaches Buddy and wants to have a private conversation with him. Mavis intimately tries to persuade Buddy to come back with her, but Buddy refuses and leaves her. Mavis walks out of the

house full of emotion after being rejected by Buddy. Beth intends to give Mavis a drink, but she accidentally spills the drink on Mavis' clothes. Of course, Mavis is angry and she scolds Beth in front of many people who attend. Mavis tells about her past with Buddy that she is pregnant by Buddy and would have a party like this if she were still with Buddy.

Everyone stays silent without anyone willing to defend Mavis. Basically what Mavis does is just embarrass herself in front of many people. Mavis finally finds out that it is Beth who invites her to the event. Mavis left while swearing at the people there and also at the town of her birth. Mavis goes to Matt's house, she has sex with Matt. In the morning Mavis goes to the kitchen to talk to Sandra, Matt's sister. Mavis said that she feels that her life is no happier than the people in her hometown. Meanwhile, Sandra thinks otherwise. Many people are jealous of the success Mavis has achieved since she moved to the city. At the end of the movie, Mavis decides to return to Minneapolis and continue her life as a writer.

B. Review of Related Theories

B. 1. Personality

According to *Theodore Millon*, "Personality is what makes us who we are and what makes us different from other people" (2). Personality is an individual's habit of thinking, feeling, and understanding. Besides that, personality also includes moods, attitudes, and opinions and is most clearly seen in interactions with other people. Thus, the manifestations of personality are all our behavior. This includes

a behavioral characteristic that makes different one person from another and which can be seen in people's relationships with the environment and social groups. In interacting with people in their environment, each individual will have their personality type in adjusting to the social environment.

According to *An Introduction to Theories of Personality*, personality is an "Important and relatively stable characteristic within a person that accounts for consistent patterns of behavior. Aspects of personality may be observable or unobservable, conscious or unconscious" (3-4). There are differences of opinion regarding personality, there are several theories that reveal that personality can only be understood and seen from how a person behaves in a social environment. Meanwhile, psychologists argue that personality is something that originates and is developed by a person. Most theorists believe that a person's mental, emotional, social, and physical characteristics are included in their personality. The topic of personality covers various kinds of human behavior, traits that are realized or conscious and hidden or unconscious. *Theodore Millon* states that personality is the way a person's traits are distributed over their complete personality matrix. Personality refers to a person's combined set of interpersonal, cognitive, psychodynamic, and biological traits. Personality refers to significant and largely consistent behavioral characteristics (9).

B.2. Personality Disorder

Based on the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-V-TR)*, personality disorder is "when sufferers have patterns of thought and

behavior that are not normal and are difficult to change, for example, when someone has personality traits that become so inflexible and maladaptive so that it can damage an individual's ability to function in life. Usually, people with personality disorders have difficulty dealing with people around them and find it difficult to understand situations” (733).

This can also cause problems and limitations in building relationships and carrying out daily activities, including dealing with stress and depression. These experiences begin in childhood or adulthood and persist over time and across a variety of situations, affecting most areas of a person's life. Everyone experiences different emotions, thoughts, and behaviors according to their personality disorder (*Introduction to Psychology* 565).

According to the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-V-TR)*, personality disorders are "an enduring pattern of mental experiences and behavior that markedly deviates from an individual's cultural expectations, is pervasive and inflexible, has onset in adolescence or early adulthood, is stable over time, and leads to distress or distraction” (733). The book also states that there are three groups based on the descriptive similarities of the ten types of personality disorders:

1. Cluster A is a group with individuals who often look odd or eccentric. This group consists of paranoid, schizoid, and schizotypal personality disorders.

2. Cluster B is a group with individuals who often appear dramatic or erratic. This group consists of antisocial, borderline, histrionic, and narcissistic personality disorders.
3. Cluster C is a group of individuals who often appear anxious or afraid. This group consists of avoidant, dependent, and obsessive-compulsive personality disorders (734).

People with personality disorders sometimes find it difficult to distinguish between what is normal and what is not, assuming that their behavior and behavior seem natural and have no problems. There are even situations where they will blame other people for the situation they face. Diagnosis of a personality disorder requires evaluating the individual's long-term pattern of functioning, and certain personality traits must be evident by early adulthood.

B.3 Histrionic Personality Disorder

B.3.1. Diagnostic Criteria of Histrionic Personality Disorder

Before starting, it is important to know the history of how the histrionic name came to be. The classical concept of Hysteria became an early reference for histrionic personality disorder to be seen. Hysteria became very popular to be discussed in medical schools in the 1800s, and researchers assume that the role of personality functions and unconscious processes is how the symptoms of hysteria arise. The father of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries worked to treat hysteria patients based on theories about the unconscious

and the belief that women have an innate character in the diagnosis of hysteria (Novais et al. 2-3).

The hysterical personality first appeared in the first edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-I)* which was included under the general category of "emotionally unstable personality". The diagnostic category appears in the 1968 edition of the *DSM II*. In *DSM II*, hysteria is included in "hysterical neuroses", with dissociative and conversion subtypes, while "hysterical personality" is listed separately as a personality disorder in the *DSM II*. The term hysteria was later changed to histrionic personality disorder in *DSM III*, in adjustment to the growth in the number of female mental health practitioners in the 1970s. From *DSM III* to *DSM IV* the diagnostic criteria for histrionic personality disorder underwent several changes until finally histrionic personality disorder was still present in *DSM-V-TR* (Novais et al. 3-4)

The current edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-V-TR: American Psychiatric Association [APA]*, defines histrionic personality disorder primarily as a "pervasive pattern of attention-seeking and emotional excess that begins in early adulthood and emerges in various situations" (757). Under certain conditions, the tendency with histrionic traits is well known in a group or community environment. These two traits most indicate a histrionic personality. For example, surely, we meet people wearing clothes or accessories that are excessive to attract public attention. Another strengthening example is that this person usually acts dramatically to impress people with what they do.

In society itself, histrionic personalities are not considered a threat when compared to psychopathic personalities who can take actions that can unsettle the community. However, in some cases, people with a histrionic personality can become a personality that goes to extremes and causes chaos. A person with a histrionic personality can experience depression if they are not the center of attention. Therefore, it can develop toward pathology rather than normality if a person with histrionic personality disorder does not get what they want. *Kiesler* states that histrionic personality disorders can be briefly explained into two main parts, namely normal and pathological. Under normal circumstances, *Kiesler* describes someone as uninhibited, cheerful, friendly, approachable, and interested. Meanwhile, in a pathological state, it is contrary to the normal state, it becomes uncontrollable, melodramatic, flamboyant, and disturbing (14–15).

Several features of histrionic personality disorder including difficulties with romantic and sexual relationships. For example, the relationships and friendships of people with histrionic personality disorder have emotional intimacy that is not genuine, and their sexual attraction coexists with a tendency to find sexual relationships consistently unsatisfying. Their friendship is often rocky, largely due to their constant demands for attention and sexually provocative behavior. People with histrionic personality disorder are extremely manipulative, a tendency that comes with apparent dependence on their partners (Smith 312).

In histrionic history, compared to men, women are more likely to have histrionic personality disorder, especially women with unsatisfactory sex lives, such as virgins and widows. According to the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of*

Mental Disorders (DSM-V-TR: American Psychiatric Association [APA], People will be diagnosed with histrionic personality disorder if indicated by five (or more) of the diagnostic criteria for histrionic personality disorder:

1. Uncomfortable in situations where he or she is not the center of attention.

The first criterion people with histrionic personality disorder feel uncomfortable or worthless when not being the center of attention. They always want to be the center of attention. Histrionic beliefs typically include, “I need other people to admire me to be happy” and “I am very lovable, entertaining, and interesting.” Therefore, histrionics always need the center of attention and form strong bonds with others who indulge them and play the role of admiring audience (Theodore Millon 317). When not being the center of attention, they may do something dramatic (like making up a story or making a scene) even when they do not receive praise or approval, they will display anger, cry, and accuse (Cloninger 44).

2. Interactions with others are often characterized by inappropriate sexual advances or provocative behavior.

The second criterion is when individuals with histrionic personality disorder often exhibit provocative or seductive sexual behavior. Behavior that refers to sexual, individuals with histrionics always have their fantasies. There is a strong relationship between sexual fantasies, in previous research personality disorders in cluster B had very high sexual fantasies, especially

in histrionic personality disorders (Jia 144). Such acts occur not only in persons who are sexually or romantically interested but also in various social interactions such as work, which do not comply with accepted social norms.

3. Displays emotional expressions that change quickly and shallowly.

The third criterion is that individuals who have emotional expression may be shallow and change quickly. They often change their emotions, excited at first but then quickly turn into disappointed; this situation takes place quickly and unexpectedly. They also tend to confuse fantasy with reality.

4. Consistently use physical appearance to draw attention to yourself.

The fourth criterion of histrionic personality disorder is when a person constantly uses physical appearance to attract attention. They pay a lot of attention to the impression they make through their appearance and put a great deal of effort, time, and money into clothing and grooming. They may also seek compliments about their appearance.

5. Has a style of speech that is too impressive and lacks detail.

The fifth criterion for someone with a histrionic personality disorder is having a way of speaking that is too impressionistic and lacks detail. Strong statements are made dramatically, but the basis is often vague and unclear, lacking facts and details. For example, an individual with histrionic personality disorder might call someone in a state of being unhappy having

children, but cannot give specific examples of what he or she means by being unhappy with other people.

6. Showing self-dramatization, theatrics, and excessive emotional expression.

The sixth criterion for people with histrionic personality disorder is characterized by self-dramatization, theatricality, and excessive emotional expression. They may embarrass friends and acquaintances by displaying their emotions in public, for example, embracing casual acquaintances with great enthusiasm, crying uncontrollably in front of young children, or having temper tantrums.

7. Suggestive (that is, easily influenced by other people or circumstances).

Individuals with histrionic personality disorder fulfill the seventh criterion by having a high level of suggestion. Their views and feelings are easily influenced by other people or current trends. They tend to play on feelings and quickly adopt new beliefs. Additionally, individuals with histrionic disorders often also exhibit certain impaired cognitive abilities, they often base their decision-making on hunches or impressions without fully considering their options or the possible consequences of their actions (Shapiro 108).

8. Consider the relationship more intimate than it actually is.

Relationships with histrionics usually have a superficial quality. Since most require constant attention and stimulation, their partners may eventually feel

uncomfortable, enslaved to their needs, and bored with the burden. (Theodore Millon 312). People with this disorder often view relationships as closer than they really are, as characterized by the seventh criterion, describing nearly every acquaintance as "my closest friend" or something similar".

In some actual cases, it may or may not include showing some of the patterns or behaviors associated with other personality disorders (APA 757-758).

B.3.2. The Causes of Histrionic Personality Disorder

The study of the causes of personality disorders has been central to the study of abnormal psychology in recent decades. Subjects with different pathologies are encountered in the course of clinical work. Some are in the midst of a depressive episode, coping with the enduring effects of a traumatic experience, some are not accepting reality and some instead of being clinically disturbed have more problems in life.

Theodore Millon states that people with histrionic personality disorder are sometimes seen in substance abuse or alcoholism, for example, as a means of liberating their dramatic tendencies. It may also be targeting a substance abuser who is consistently alcoholic as drawing attention to a person with histrionic personality disorder from larger life problems such as divorce. It can also be used to relieve feelings of emptiness within themselves, helping them to feel alive and energetic which supports their attention-seeking habits. Also, alcohol is a quick way to become slim and attractive which feeds on histrionic habits related to the

importance of physical appearance to seek sensation. Excessive emotional expression in histrionic people is seen as a symptom of this hidden conflict, and the need to be the center of attention is seen as a way to defend oneself from true feelings, namely low self-esteem (327).

Jeffrey J. Magnavita, stated that the dynamics of the cause experienced by a person who has personality disorder, the broad categories include:

1. Genetic predisposition

The neurobiological system and how we behave can be influenced by genetics. Pervin argues that personality variation is inherited between 30% and 50% (38). Biological variables such as genetic gifts that influence temperament traits become parameters for personality development. From a biological point of view, it is recognized that purely physical factors are often strongly associated with various personality traits. Personality development and the way it is regulated have a predisposition relationship with the neurobiological system (Cloninger 44).

2. Attachment experience

The attachment experience in the past may be one of the important factors influencing the developmental pathways of personality disorders, that there is no such entity as a baby but only the mother's child pair (Magnavita 17). For example, the parenting style of parents who pamper the individual so much that his spoiled nature lasts when he is an adult is the reason why the individual always wants to be the center of attention. Another opinion states

that the relationship is not harmonious between children and parents so the loss of love causes the child to maintain a fear of loss and react dramatically.

3. Traumatic events

Freud's original discovery of trauma as the main etiological factor in the development of hysteria (Magnavita 63). The impact of trauma on personality functioning, trauma can affect the neurobiological system and may "injure" the brain, leading to developmental disorders and psychopathology in the future (Magnavita 17). This does not mean that everyone who has experienced a traumatic event will develop pathological personality traits. Even the most resilient individual will be affected by trauma which will have an impact on personality development. This proves that traumatic events are one of the most common pathways for someone to have a personality disorder. The association between adversity, trauma, and personality pathology is not limited to childhood experiences. Adolescents and adults with personality disorders experience more daily difficulties and stressful events than their counterparts without personality disorders. This evidence suggests that environmental stressors continue to play a role in personality disorder into adulthood.

4. Family constellation and Dysfunction

The relationship between genetics and family environment is an interesting field to study. The etiology of histrionic personality disorder according to Psychodynamic theory is that emotionality and sexual indecency are driven

by the indecency of parents, especially fathers toward their daughters. The family environment for sufferers of this disorder is usually parents who talk about sex as something dirty but act as if sex is something fun and desirable. Explain how preoccupation with sex is how parenting works (Kring 478). Livesley found that "Parental psychopathology is related to various psychosocial difficulties, such as trauma, family dysfunction, and family breakdown" (234). Clinical observations support that individuals who are raised in family breakdown are more likely to develop personality disorders (Magnavita 17).

5. Socio-cultural and political forces

The disintegration of society may be an important factor in how personality pathology develops (Livesley 237). Pervin revealed that personality psychology must pay attention to context issues, genetic basis, and various social contexts, perhaps also larger contexts such as age groups, family institutions, social class, national/cultural history, or gender (19).

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

The third chapter of this study contains a list of the methods used to conduct the research, including data collection, and evidence analysis with a specific goal of learning more about the subject or improving understanding of it, and to answer the topic of problem formulation and object of the study. The three components of the research method used in this study are Types of research, Data Organization, and Analyzing the Data.

A. Type of the Research

In this study, the type of research used was qualitative because the data were presented descriptively. Qualitative research is a kind of research methodology that is used to report studies. Consequently, Sutton and Austin's explanation of the qualitative data is clear: "Qualitative research can assist researchers' access to the ideas and feelings of research participants, which can enable the development of an understanding of the meaning that individuals attach to their experiences" (230). The data were presented as words, phrases, sentences, dialogues, or monologues. In this study, Mavis Gary, the main character in the movie *Young Adult* (2011), was examined through qualitative research.

B. Data Organizing

According to the research methodologies, this study organizes the data in the best possible way. In this study, the two points of data organizing were:

B.1. Data Collecting Method

In collecting data for this study, several methods were used as follows:

B.1.1. Watching the Movie

The first step to do was to watch the movie. A movie entitled *Young Adult* (2011) has been watched intensively several times to understand it. It is meant to understand the entire content of the movie to gain an understanding of the related topics that are being discussed.

B.1.2. Reading the Movie Script

After watching the *Young Adult* (2011) movie multiple times, the researcher read the movie script repeatedly. This step's objective is to gain a thorough understanding.

B.1.3. Identifying the Data

The following step was to identify the data. This study identified the data from gathering data that are used in this research. This was a step of collecting data by highlighting some parts of the movie script. The collected data from this movie script were in the form of character

dialogue, monologue, descriptive or narrative, that support the topic of the research.

B.1.4. Classifying the Data

The next step was classifying the data. The process of writing the data was based on the problem formulation of this research into a table. Data must be classified which aims to facilitate the author in answering the problem. Classification of data in the form of appendices containing column numbers, excerpts from the movie script, movie times and the pages of the movie script, types of analysis, types of data, references, and comments.

B.1.5. Reducing the Data

The final step was reducing the data. It was a process of reducing data that did not correlate to answer the problem formulation. It needed to be stored in the most efficient form of data using relevant techniques so that the research could be properly presented.

B.2. Types of the Data

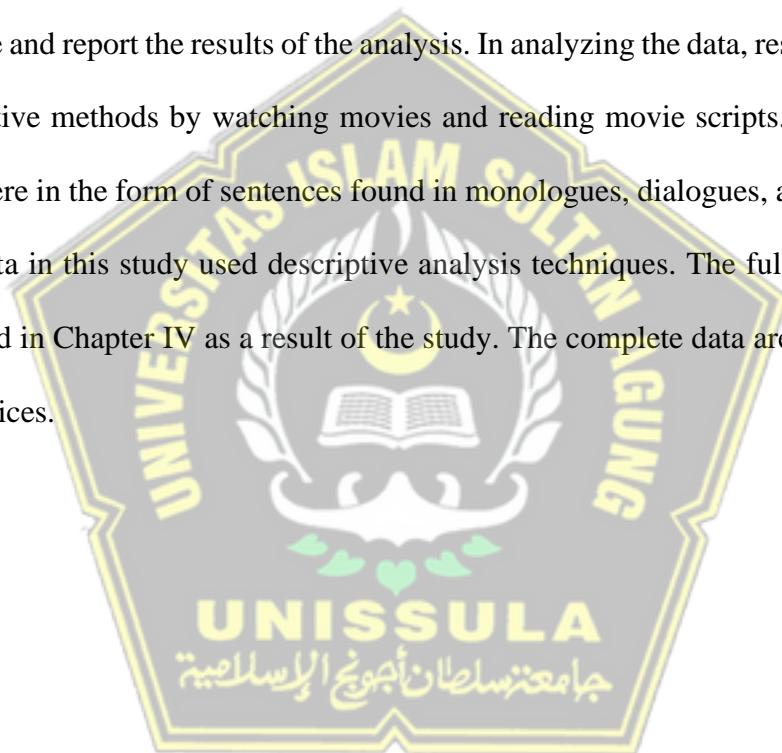
This research used two types of sources that were used. These data sources were explained as follows:

1. Primary data, obtained from the movie *Young Adult (2011)*, this type of data was the movie and the movie script

2. Secondary data or supporting data sources. These secondary data sources were taken from journals, e-books, and sites involved in the study.

B.3. Analyzing the Data

The final point of this study was the data analysis technique, which aims to analyze and report the results of the analysis. In analyzing the data, researchers used qualitative methods by watching movies and reading movie scripts. The research data were in the form of sentences found in monologues, dialogues, and narratives. The data in this study used descriptive analysis techniques. The full analysis was reported in Chapter IV as a result of the study. The complete data are shown in the appendices.



CHAPTER IV

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the research findings and discussion. Chapter IV consists of the answer to the problem formulation that has been stated in Chapter I. The problem formulations are about the diagnostic criteria of histrionic personality disorder and what are the causes of histrionic personality disorder toward the main character as seen in *Young Adult* (2011) movie.

A. Histrionic Personality Disorder Depicted in The Main Character Mavis Gary

As described in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th Edition (DSM-V-TR; American Psychiatric Association)*, histrionic personality disorder is a clinical syndrome in which individuals display an interactional style characterized by seductive, emotionally shallow, and dramatic. In addition, individuals diagnosed with histrionic personality disorder are motivated to seek attention, flirt, or be sexually provocative with others, using a highly theatrical style, and often consider the relationship more intimate to others (733). “People will be diagnosed with a histrionic personality disorder if indicated by five (or more) of the diagnostic criteria for histrionic personality disorder”. This study finds seven out of eight diagnostic criteria of histrionic personality disorder which was shown in Mavis Gary’s behavior:

A.1 Attention Seeking

Individuals with histrionic personality disorder are uncomfortable or feel unappreciated when they are not the center of attention. These individuals continually demand to be the center of attention. If they are not the center of attention, they may do something dramatic (like making up a story or creating a scene) to be the center of attention (APA 757). This criterion is shown by Mavis Gary as the main character, when she tells Buddy and Beth that her father is a doctor by making up stories to attract Buddy's attention:

BETH (taken aback): We weren't loaded. My dad was a podiatrist.

MAVIS: My father's a doctor too.

BUDDY: Stepdad.

If Mavis is annoyed by the correction, she doesn't let on.

MAVIS (to Buddy): No, my biological father is also in the medical field.

BETH: Oh yeah? Where does he practice?

Buddy cringes, knowing this is a sore subject.

MAVIS: I don't know, Beth. I'm afraid I haven't seen him in years.

BETH: I'm sorry. (*Young Adult*, 54)

The previous quote shows that Mavis wants to be the center of attention. When the three of them are gathered, Mavis Gary, Buddy Slade, and his wife, Beth says her

father is a podiatrist and Mavis Gary cannot be outdone right away and she says her father is also a doctor. Buddy corrects what Mavis says because he knows Mavis is making up stories to get attention and Mavis Gary feels annoyed.

Any personality disorder will be considered negative, as is the case with individuals with histrionics. Histrionic individuals' beliefs lead to the protection of what they believe to be grim truths. Histrionic beliefs typically include, "I need other people to admire me to be happy" and "I am very lovable, entertaining, and interesting." Therefore, histrionics always need the center of attention and form strong bonds with others who indulge them and play the role of admiring audience (Theodore Millon 317). Another proof of attention-seeking behavior portrayed by Mavis Gary can be seen in the dialogue below:

BUDDY (chuckling): You definitely are a writer, Mavis.

MAVIS: See? Now you're laughing.

BUDDY: You've always been so funny.

Mavis is thrilled with this moment of attention and validation.

She leans in and opens her mouth to speak. (*Young Adult*, 57)

This part shows that Mavis is thirsty for appraisal and attention. In the second meeting of Buddy Slade and Mavis Gary, Buddy praises Mavis as a writer. Mavis Gary feels happy to be the center of attention and gets validation from Buddy Slade, his ex-boyfriend.

Someone with histrionics usually has an attitude that quickly turns angry if someone disagrees. They always exhibit high levels of attention-seeking behavior, doing various things to be the center of attention. If they are not the center of attention or do not receive praise or approval, they will display anger, cry, and accuse (Cloninger 44). Another proof of attention-seeking behavior portrayed by Mavis Gary can be seen in the dialogue below:

INT. BOOKSTORE - DAY

Mavis walks through the Young Adult section. An employee polo takes inventory nearby.

MAVIS: Do you have the Waverley Prep books?

ASSOCIATE: Yeah, they've got their own display table over there.

MAVIS: (to associate) May I borrow your pen?

Mavis opens the book to the flyleaf and begins to write in an unobtrusive way. The associate notices.

ASSOCIATE: Are you writing in there?

MAVIS: I'm the author. I'm signing it.

ASSOCIATE: You're Jane MacMurray?

MAVIS: No. Jane MacMurray created the series, but I wrote the book. I'm Mavis Gary. Crane. See?

ASSOCIATE: Do you know Jane MacMurray?

MAVIS: I know her very well. (indignant) I wrote this book.

ASSOCIATE: Okay. Wow.

MAVIS: Would you like a signed copy for the store?

ASSOCIATE: No, that's fine.

Mavis grabs another book, wielding her pen threateningly.

MAVIS: I'll sign as many as you want. It adds value to your stock.

ASSOCIATE: Yeah, but when merchandise is signed, we can't send it back to the publisher.

MAVIS: Why would you send these back to the publisher?!

ASSOCIATE: Well...we're probably not going to sell them. The series is done. Hey...

Mavis is rapidly, manically signing another book, making her signature as big as possible. She reaches for another. As the associate moves toward her, she slams it shut, backing away from the table.

MAVIS: Okay. Fine. (Young Adult, 87)

From this scene, it can be seen that Mavis fits the diagnostic criteria for a person with histrionic personality disorder who craves to be the center of attention. She shows anger and accusation when she is not the center of attention or is not

receiving praise or appreciation. When she was in a bookstore and asked about a book she wrote, an associate only recognized Jane MacMurray as the author of the book, Mavis felt unappreciated. Mavis does not receive special treatment for attention, she becomes aggressive; for instance, she starts to insult associates at the bookstore. She is angry with the bookseller who does not appreciate her as the writer of the book.

A.2 Sexually seductive or provocative behavior

The appearance and behavior of individuals with this disorder are often inappropriately sexually provocative or seductive (APA 757). Histrionics rely on their sexual attraction to others. This criterion is shown by Mavis Gary as the main character, in a narration when Mavis meets Buddy and tries to tempt him with provocative behavior:

Mavis nods. She takes out her phone and starts pretending to compose a text message.

Reveal the SCREEN of the phone: “jggjsgnkajwhriuawgf”

Mavis glances at the nearest table. A couple of GUYS are eating nachos and watching a basketball game on one of the overhead TVs.

Mavis sits up a little straighter, arching her back. She puts her elbows on the table, thrusting her breasts forward. She ruins the effect by looking down at her cleavage. Then... BUDDY enters the bar, wearing loose jeans and a flannel.

Mavis is pretending to text again. She glances up at Buddy with expert detachment, smiles, and waves slightly. Buddy rounds the corner toward Mavis.

MAVIS: Hey you!

BUDDY: Wow. Great to see you, hon.

Buddy and Mavis hug. Over Buddy's shoulder, we see Mavis's thrilled and sensual face. Her eyes are tightly closed. They separate.

Buddy slides into the booth across from Mavis. (*Young Adult, 28*)

We can see from the quote, it shows that most of Mavis' behavior is sexually seductive or provocative as described in criterion two, inappropriate flirting. In the first meeting of Mavis Gary and Buddy Slade, Mavis Gary pretends to look at her phone in a sexy manner. After Buddy Slade comes when they greet him, Mavis hugs Buddy and tries to sniff his shoulder with her eyes closed too. Here it is clearly shown how Mavis flirts with sexually seductive and provocative behavior.

Another proof of sexually provocative behavior portrayed by Mavis Gary can be seen in the narration below:

Mavis takes a drink of ice water and looks longingly at Buddy. **She crosses her long, bare legs. There's a bead of water on her lip, which she wipes away.** Buddy is beginning to sense something isn't right. (*Young Adult, 53*)

It can be seen from the quote that Mavis's behavior is seductive or sexually provocative. She has developed ingenious ways of doing so with sensitivity to the qualities and behaviors that others might find interesting and attractive. This is shown when Mavis meets Buddy she makes a teasing move on Buddy with an attitude "She crosses her long bare legs. There was a bead of water on her lips, which she wiped away". Buddy here also feels something is wrong with Mavis' teasing behavior.

Behavior that refers to sexual, individuals with histrionics always have their fantasies. There is a strong relationship between sexual fantasies, in previous research personality disorders in cluster B had very high sexual fantasies, especially in borderline and histrionic personality disorders (Jia 144). Another proof of sexually provocative behavior portrayed by Mavis Gary can be seen in the dialogue below:

Buddy gets up and heads over to the bar. Mavis turns her head in sync with his departing body, staring at him.

MUSIC UP: Something dreamy, sexy, and worshipful, like "My Sweet Lord" by George Harrison.

In slow motion, we see Buddy sidle up to the bar, leaning toward the bartender. Mavis's gaze-- our gaze—drifts down his body. Suddenly, Mavis is alive.

He's just an average suburban dad, but the way Mavis looks at him, he's the very embodiment of sensuality.

His back, softened by years of inactivity. The hang of his “relaxed fit” jeans.

The way his thirty-dollar haircut feathers against the nape of his neck. Mavis drinks it all in, lost in a reverie.

On Mavis’s face, hopeful and sad at once... (*Young Adult*, 30)

From the quote, it can be seen that Mavis fits the second diagnostic criteria of histrionic personality disorder which has higher sexual fantasies. Mavis Gary has sexual fantasies about Buddy. When the first meeting between her and Buddy at the cafe. When Buddy wants to get a drink at the café bar, Mavis deliberately sees Buddy's body with sensuality from behind while walking.

A.3 Physical appearance to draw attention

Strong patterns of expression by individuals with histrionics usually involve their physical appearance, whether it is hairstyle, makeup, or clothing. Individuals with this disorder consistently use physical appearance to draw attention. They are overly concerned with impressing others with their appearance and expend an excessive amount of time, energy, and money on clothes and grooming (APA 758).

This criterion is shown by Mavis Gary as the main character in the narrative below:

INT. STRIP MALL NAIL SALON - DAY 39

Mavis sits in a high-tech “throne.” Her feet are in a swirling basin of water. The chair vibrates.

A young GIRL on her knees buffs Mavis's feet. She reaches for a pedicure tool.

MAVIS: Please don't use the callous slicer. No, don't. Do not. Unsanitary. Thanks.

40 INT. STRIP MALL NAIL SALON (BACK ROOM)

A technician applies WAX to Mavis's eyebrows and rips it off efficiently. Mavis doesn't flinch.

41 INT. HOTEL ROOM (BATHROOM) - SAME 41

Mavis applies makeup with a practiced hand and an arsenal of expensive brushes.

She coats her face with foundation like a party clown. It looks shockingly natural once blended.

As her lips are glossed and her lashes blackened, we see that she's a truly gorgeous woman.

She wraps her hair around a curling iron, enjoying the process of making herself attractive. (*Young Adult*, 26)

We can see from the quote, it correctly shows that Mavis uses her physical appearance to direct attention to herself according to the fourth criterion. All Mavis is doing before meeting Buddy is beautifying herself by going to the nail salon, getting her hair done, and getting her feet polished. This proves that Mavis is using her looks to get Buddy Slade's attention.

People with this disorder often use their physical appearance, such as unusual clothes, makeup, or hair color, to draw attention (Kring 478). Another proof of Mavis's behavior that uses physical appearance to draw attention can be seen in the narration below:

INT. NAIL SALON

In a reprise of the earlier scene in the salon, we see Mavis prepare for the rock show including dark nail polish.

INT. HOTEL

Mavis curls her hair and applies her rock show look. (*Young Adult*, 47)

As we can see from the quote Mavis fits the fourth diagnostic criteria for a person with histrionic personality disorder. Mavis always dresses unusually before meeting Buddy, she never does self-care like going to the salon or beautifying herself with her hair. Her daily appearance when she does not meet Buddy, even sober as if she does not care. However, in Mavis' second meeting with Buddy, she always dresses up beautifully, goes to the nail salon, and fixes her hair with a curly wig just to attract Buddy's attention. This dress-up that Mavis does is only done when she wants to meet Buddy.

A.4 Style of speech that is too impressive and lacks of detail

Someone with a histrionic personality disorder has a way of speaking that is too impressionistic and lacks detail. Strong statements are made dramatically,

however the basis is often vague and unclear, lacking supporting facts and details (APA 758). This criterion is shown by Mavis Gary as the main character in the dialogue below:

MAVIS: Good, good. It was eye-opening though. Buddy-- he's clearly not happy.

MATT: He told you that?

MAVIS: He implied it. You can tell he's suffering. He looks completely exhausted. He told me he feels like a zombie.

Mavis takes in Matt's childhood bedroom. A twin bed. A record collection. A desk strewn with Testor's hobby glue, paint, and disembodied toy figurines.

MATT: I was there, and I suspect he was being flip.

MAVIS: It's a pretty strong statement to make. A zombie is a dead person, Matt.

MATT: Please, I'm a fat geek. I know what zombies are.

MAVIS: I think Buddy and I are having very similar feelings. The question is, who's going to make the first move?

MATT: (dry): I'm thinking it will be you. (*Young Adult*, 31)

We can see from the quote that Mavis fits with the fifth criterion of a person with histrionic personality disorder, which may call someone not happy, but not be able

to provide specific examples of what is called unhappy. It shows in the dialogue, that Mavis emphatically says that Buddy is not happily married and feels miserable having children, and Mavis calls Buddy like a zombie, a dead person. However when asked by Matt, how Mavis knows that Buddy is not happy, she can not prove it with facts. It automatically shows that Mavis has a way of speaking that is too impressionistic and lacks detail.

Another proof of the style of speech that lacks detail portrayed by Mavis Gary can be seen in the narration below:

Reveal Mavis, thrusting the announcement at her friend VICKI as if it's evidence in a trial.

Mavis and Vicki are in a courtyard behind a corporate building. Vicki is upholstered in a cheap business suit from the mall. She's not as pretty as Mavis and is clearly the "beta" in the relationship.

MAVIS: This baby-- you know, this baby was just born like a month ago. A month. I mean, when you send something that soon, isn't it just for the inner circle? Not for the ex-girlfriend of the father, who doesn't even talk to him anymore. Frankly, it's a slap in the face. Right?

VICKI: You seem a little overly worked up about this.

MAVIS: I'm not worked up in the slightest. I just wanted to tell you about something that happened. God, excuse me. She takes the birth announcement from Vicki and stuffs it in her purse.

VICKI: Well, good for them, right? Buddy seems like he'd be a decent father.

MAVIS: But can you imagine still living in Mercury? Trapped with a wife and a kid and some crappy job? It's like he's-- it's like he's a hostage. (*Young Adult*, 4)

As described in this criterion, someone with a histrionic personality disorder has a speech lacking detail. We can see from the quote that Mavis fits this criterion, in the morning after waking up and checking her laptop, Mavis gets an email from Buddy about the birth of his first child. She talked about it with Vicki, her friend. Mavis keeps talking about Buddy. She says that Buddy is trapped with his wife, kids, and bad job, like he's a hostage. She has an impressionistic speaking style and there is no detail in what she says about Buddy.

A.5 Self-dramatization, theatricality, and exaggerated expression of emotion

Someone with histrionic personality disorder may embarrass friends and acquaintances by an excessive public display of emotions (e.g., embracing casual acquaintances with excessive ardor, sobbing uncontrollably on minor sentimental occasions, having temper tantrums) (APA 758). The pattern of language tends to use superlative words. They often exaggerate to dramatize a point and do not care about the truth if a distortion better accompanies the drama. They tend to exaggerate their thoughts and feelings and make things sound more important than they are. This criterion is shown by Mavis Gary as the main character in the dialogue below:

She stumbles away from Beth. Buddy charges forward and herds her over to the fence, trying to move her away from the crowd.

BUDDY: (hushed) what the hell are you doing? My wife invited you here. You wouldn't be here, otherwise.

MAVIS: You invited me, Buddy.

BUDDY: Beth practically forced me to call you. I mean, she even stood there and supervised to make sure I'd do it. She feels sorry for you. I've been trying to blow you off the whole time you've been in town, but Beth is a really good person, you know? And it's obvious you've been having some...mental, uh, sickness, some depression, and you're very lonely and confused. So she made me invite you even though I knew it would be a mistake. I knew it. Beth has joined Buddy by his side. Her face is creased with worry.

MAVIS: (to Buddy) You're lying.

Beth's voice is low and sad.

BETH: He's not.

Mavis looks at Beth's face. Her eyes are full of pity and concern.

Still sympathetic! (*Young Adult*, 95)

It can be seen in the dialog that Mavis overdramatizes her physical pain with a play meant to impress her audience and uses facial expressions to exaggerate and

underscore her emotions far beyond what normal communication requires. Moment Beth's child celebration is where Mavis gets dramatic. Mavis thinks Buddy invited her to their baby naming event, she thinks that Buddy still wants Mavis by inviting her. However, the truth is that it was Beth who invited Mavis over. Mavis with her dramatic nature tries not to believe it, she does not care about the truth if a distortion better accompanies the drama. Mavis swearing harshly and she left Buddy's house.

A.6 Suggestible, easily influenced by others or circumstances

Individuals with histrionic personality disorder have a high degree of suggestibility. They tend to play hunches and to adopt convictions quickly (APA 758). Additionally, individuals with histrionic disorders often also exhibit certain impaired cognitive abilities, they often base their decision-making on hunches or impressions without fully considering their options or the possible consequences of their actions (Shapiro 108). Suggestible behavior appears in part after Mavis receives a mail announcing the birth of her ex-boyfriend's child:

Mavis finds what she's looking for and extracts it. It's a cassette tape. One of those '90s Memorex blank tapes that were marketed to teens; there are "cool" geometric shapes on the plastic casing.

She turns it to reveal the label, which reads "Mad love, Buddy" in ballpoint pen. **Mavis makes a decision. She reaches deep into her closet and pulls out a gigantic suitcase. She begins folding clothes and placing them in the suitcase.**

Mavis packs neatly and judiciously, holding up outfits before they make the final cut.

The date sleeps, oblivious.

Mavis, now dressed, gets Dolce into a small dog carrier and zips up the sides. The carrier wriggles.

Mavis throws cans of dog food into a large pink Victoria's Secret shopping bag. (*Young Adult*, 8)

The seventh criterion of someone with histrionic personality disorder is a high level of suggestiveness and does not fully consider their choices or the possible consequences of their actions. We can see from the quote that highly suggestive traits are shown in Mavis after receiving a mail announcing the birth of her ex-boyfriend from high school Buddy. Mavis takes it as a sign that he wishes to rekindle their love affair; she leaves Minneapolis for Mercury, and offers Buddy that they should move together to Minneapolis as they always dreamed.

A.7 Considers relationships to be more intimate

Individuals with this disorder often consider relationships more intimate than they actually are, describing almost every acquaintance as “my dear, dear friend” or referring to physicians who met only once or twice under professional circumstances by their first names (APA 758). Relationships with histrionics usually have a superficial quality. Since most require constant attention and stimulation, their partners may eventually feel uncomfortable, enslaved to their needs, and bored with the burden. (Theodore Millon 312). Considers relationships

to be more intimate appears in part when Buddy feels uncomfortable with Mavis's behavior:

INT. BUDDY'S HOUSE (BABY'S ROOM) - SAME 91

The baby's room is cheaply but sweetly decorated. Mavis seems disturbed to be here.

BUDDY: So what's going on?

MAVIS: Ugh. There's so many things I know we both want to say.

BUDDY: (confused) Okay? Let's not say all of them. I gotta get Beth's gift ready.

(Confiding) I got her a drum set.

MAVIS: You are so thoughtful. Even during all this.

BUDDY: Hey, she pushed it out.

MAVIS: I just wanted to tell you that I'm feeling everything you're feeling. These past few days have been some of the best of my life.

BUDDY: They have?

MAVIS: You don't have to pretend. (taps his head) I know what's in here. (taps his heart) And I know what's in here.

Mavis closes her eyes and begins to move in.

MAVIS: (breathless) Buddy, you're my moon. My stars. You're my whole galaxy...

Her lips go slack for a kiss as she lunges toward Buddy.

He quickly realizes what's happening and pushes Mavis away strongly. Perhaps even shoving her actual face. It's a hard, humiliating rejection.

BUDDY: Mavis, what are you doing?

MAVIS: You don't have to be afraid. You can come to the city with me, like we always planned.

BUDDY: What the hell are you talking about?!

MAVIS: We can work it out. We'll handle it like adults.

BUDDY: Mavis, I'm a married man.

MAVIS: I know. We can beat this thing together.

Buddy looks at Mavis. A sad, pathetic look.

BUDDY: You're better than this.

Mavis blinks in disbelief.

BUDDY: (leaving) I have to go. You should leave. Flustered, he walks out of the room. (*Young Adult*, 68)

This quote shows that Mavis considers relationships more intimate than they are. Mavis tries to seduce Buddy and she wants him to come back to her. From this narration "He quickly realizes what's happening and pushes Mavis away strongly. Perhaps even shoving her actual face. It's a hard, humiliating rejection." It shows

how Buddy is very depressed by the way Mavis teases and wants a more intimate relationship than they are. Partners may eventually feel enslaved by their neediness, and tire of the burden, this is seen when Buddy tries to push Mavis away.

Another proof of considers relationships to be more intimate behavior portrayed by Mavis Gary can be seen in the narration below:

MAVIS (CONT'D): I like your day-cor, what is this, Regency?

BETH: Goodwill.

MAVIS: Me and Buddy used to go thrifting all the time. We had a huge stupid T-shirt collection. Just the dumbest things.

BETH: Oh yeah?

MAVIS: Yes, I used to sleep in Buddy's shirts. And boxers.

BUDDY Heh.

Mavis pushes it a little further, addressing Beth.

MAVIS: I still have a few, I think.

Buddy looks uncomfortable, but Beth smiles broadly. (Young Adult, 51)

This quote it correctly shows that Mavis considers relationships more intimate than they are according to the eighth criterion. Mavis talked about how she used to sleep in Buddy's clothes and boxers, she even said without feeling guilty that she still kept Buddy's things in front of Beth, Buddy's wife. While at Beth and Buddy's house,

Mavis confidently talks about herself and Buddy when they are still dating. Tells about how she wears Buddy's clothes while sleeping. There it was seen that Buddy was very uncomfortable with what Mavis was telling Beth.

Another proof of considers relationships to be more intimate behavior portrayed by Mavis Gary can be seen in the dialogue below:

.....

This isn't what Mavis wants to hear, but it gives her a new tactic.

MAVIS: You're a great father. You're already going above and beyond in so many ways. Remember when we were kids? Dad didn't have to do shit. They came and they went and we still bought them new golf balls and tie tacks on Father's Day. But you-- you've really stepped up to the plate. You do too much, even.

Now Buddy's voice has become similarly low and intimate.

BUDDY: Do you think so?

MAVIS: Yes. You're such a good, good man, Buddy. **Don't ever shortchange yourself.**

Buddy chuckles softly and drunkenly. His hand has wandered to Mavis's bare arm. It's a friendly grip, more for balance than anything, but there's tension now.

BUDDY: I just...I really love my daughter.

Mavis hugs him.

MAVIS: I know. And that's the only thing that matters. Not Beth, not anything—

Buddy and Mavis's faces meet in a KISS. It's a hard closemouthed kiss, but a kiss nonetheless.

Buddy pulls away.

BUDDY: Hey, hey, hey.

The BABYSITTER, an effeminate college-aged guy, suddenly opens the door and appears on the porch. He holds a pacifier in one hand and stares daggers at Mavis. (*Young Adult*, 61-62)

We can see from the quote, it correctly shows that Mavis considers her relationship with Buddy more intimate. In the scene after seeing Beth's band perform, Mavis offers to drive Buddy Slade home. When they get home, Mavis tries to flirt with Buddy Slade before she returns to the hotel. Mavis says that Buddy Slade is a good man and the best father. Mavis keeps blocking Buddy Slade from entering the house just wanting them to be alone. Buddy feels uncomfortable. However Mavis kisses him and suddenly the babysitter comes. Buddy realizes Mavis's inappropriate behavior, he tries to push Mavis and go into the house.

Individuals with this disorder often consider relationships more intimate than they actually are, describing almost every acquaintance as “my dear, dear friend” or referring to physicians who met only once or twice under professional

circumstances by their first names (APA 758). Another proof of considers relationships to be more intimate behavior portrayed by Mavis Gary can be seen in the dialogue below:

She pats Buddy's arm.

MAVIS (CONT'D): Poor Buddy's over here like Ahhhh! No, it's all right. I've been dealing with it forever.

She looks at Buddy meaningfully.

MAVIS (CONT'D): Buddy knows the whole story. He knows everything about me. The whole story of Mavis. (*Young Adult*, 54-55)

The quote shows that Mavis considers Buddy "the person who knows everything about Mavis best. The whole story of Mavis", an overstatement consistent with the tendency of histrionic individuals to **assume** that their relationship is more intimate than it is. Mavis feels that Buddy still has a more intimate relationship than an ex-boyfriend. Even though in fact what Buddy feels is normal and only a friend.

With all of the explanations above, it shows that Mavis Gary the main character in the *Young Adult* (2011) movie diagnosed with a histrionic personality disorder indicated by seven out of eight of the diagnostic criteria for histrionic personality disorder based on personality disorder theory by American Psychiatric Association that is: uncomfortable in situations in which he or she is not the center of attention, interaction with others is often characterized by inappropriate sexually seductive or provocative behavior, consistently uses physical appearance to draw

attention to self, has a style of speech that is excessively impressionistic and lacking in detail, shows self-dramatization, suggestible, and considers relationships to be more intimate than they are.

B. The Causes of Histrionic Personality Disorder Reflected in the Main Character Mavis Gary

The study of the causes of personality disorders has been central to the study of abnormal psychology in recent decades. Subjects with different pathologies are encountered in the course of clinical work. Jeffrey J. Magnavita, one of the fellows of the American Psychological Association stated that the causes of dynamics experienced by a person who has a personality disorder, the broad categories include genetic predisposition; attachment experience; traumatic events; family constellation and dysfunction; and socio-cultural and political forces. After knowing the diagnostic criteria of histrionic personality disorder which was shown in Mavis Gary's behavior, now researcher find the causes of histrionic personality disorder that reflected Mavis Gary as the main character in *Young Adult* (2011) movie:

B.1 Traumatic event

Psychotic episodes or traumatic events certainly have a major impact on personality functioning. Trauma event by someone can cause psychological disturbances or the person's mentality. Freud's original discovery of trauma as the main etiological factor in the development of hysteria (Magnavita, 63). The impact of trauma on personality functioning, it seems that early and severe trauma is

overwhelming to the neurobiological system and may in a sense “scar” the brain leading to future disturbance and developmental psychopathology, even the most resilient individual will be greatly affected by trauma (Magnavita 17). This traumatic event is shown by Mavis Gary as the main character while still remembering the miscarriage she experienced:

HEDDA: Have you seen any old friends on this visit?

MAVIS (pointedly): Actually, I’ve seen quite a bit of Buddy.

DAVID: The old beau, eh?

HEDDA: I remember you kids were so cute in high school.

MAVIS: In a way, I feel like we’ve grown even closer as adults. It’s funny how those initial instincts can often be so right. You can make mistakes along the way, but the world has a way of bringing you back to the person you’re meant to be with. (back in the real world) I mean, we just click, you know?

Her parents are a little skeptical. Hedda tries to be understanding.

HEDDA: It’s good to keep those people in your life. People that really know you best.

Mavis smiles. Thinking- her mom understands.

HEDDA: That new baby of his is just darling.

Mavis stops smiling.

MAVIS (sincerely): Have you seen it up close?

HEDDA: I suppose. Is everything okay?

MAVIS: I'm sure. Probably too early to tell, anyway. Buddy always said we'd make pretty cute kids.

Hedda and David exchange a glance. Mavis suddenly remembers something (*Young Adult*, 85)

From this quote, it shows that traumatic events can be a major factor in someone with a personality disorder. When Mavis returns home to her parents, they have dinner together, her mother asks her if Mavis has met her old friends. At that time, Mavis immediately says that she has met Buddy. Hedda, Mavis' mother knows that Buddy already has a baby. When it comes to Buddy's baby, Mavis is immediately displeased and she immediately says that Buddy used to say they would make cute little babies. This proves their unresolved relationship and traumatizes Mavis leaving scars.

Another proof of the traumatic event portrayed by Mavis Gary can be seen in the dialogue below:

MAVIS: You guys sure have a lot of rags around here. Burp cloths, whatever. Hey, use some'a mine that I just bought you.

Everyone is staring at Mavis.

MAVIS: The funny thing is, I actually could have had this party a long time ago. I mean, this very same party. Buddy and I were together for four years. (nodding toward Jan)

Jan knows. Jan looks away, already mortified.

MAVIS: Remember? We were inseparable, in more ways than one! Ooh, I'm sorry, Jan, Kirk... Buddy got me pregnant. (*Young Adult*, 95)

From the quote, it can be seen while at the birth party for Beth and Buddy's child, Mavis still brings up the past they go through, about how she miscarried Buddy's child. She still wants Buddy. She reveals that she became pregnant with Buddy's child years ago, while in high school, and suffered a miscarriage which caused Mavis to endure the trauma for years. She still longs for the baby's naming party if she does not miscarry and that traumatizes her for years.

Another proof of the traumatic event portrayed by Mavis Gary can be seen in the dialogue below:

MAVIS (loudly): Wait, I'm telling a story. Buddy got me pregnant when I was 20, when we were almost broken up. And I decided to keep it, are you hearing this? We were going to keep the baby like this-- we were going to have a baby and a naming party and a Funquarium and little fruit hats and all that. And nine weeks in, I had, well, I had Buddy's miscarriage, which I

wouldn't wish for-- to happen to anyone. Even if they totally deserved it.

Shocked silence. Beth looks like she wants to die.

MAVIS (CONT'D): Maybe if things had been a little bit more hospitable, you know, down south, in my broken body, Buddy and I would be here right now. With a teenager, and probably even more kids. We always came back to each other. Always.

Didn't we, Jan? (*Young Adult*, 95-96)

The traumatic event seems to support a cause for the development of personality disorder in Mavis. As we can see from the quote, Mavis says it could have been her son's naming party, the happy marriage to Buddy, and how the miscarriage traumatizes her for years. She reveals that she miscarried Buddy's child years ago, which starts and proves that Mavis bore the trauma for years. Mavis tells about her former relationship with Buddy. Mavis broke up with Buddy and she became pregnant and miscarried. Mavis blames her ex, Buddy for their failed marriage and Beth 'for taking' Buddy from her.

B.2 Family Constellation and Dysfunction

Family dysfunction is one of the causes of someone having a personality disorder. People with histrionic personality disorder are thought to have been raised in a family environment where parents spoke of sex as something dirty, sexual indecency is driven by the indecency of parents, especially fathers to their daughters (Kring 478). This family dysfunction is shown by Mavis Gary as the main character:

MAVIS: When I got married to Allen...Allen is my ex-husband, Allen Crane, the retard of Hennepin County, but anyway. When I got married to Allen, me and my stepfather go out to do our special daddy-daughter dance at the reception. Right? Because he basically raised me, in as much as... whatever. And I tell you, my stepfather has always been weird. Around me, and well, just around me. So we go out and this song starts playing, you know..

Mavis: and we're dancing at my wedding in a whole circle of people, and I suddenly notice that my stepfather...has...an erection.

Matt reels.

MATT: That's dark, Mavis. (*Young Adult, 22*)

A family environment that discusses sexuality or commits sexual harassment can cause personality disorder. It shows from the quote that Mavis tells about her past marriage with her ex-husband, Allen. She says that her stepfather danced on her wedding day and he did something indecent. Maybe this is what caused Mavis' problems with her stepfather which made her hate stepfather.

Another proof of family dysfunction portrayed by Mavis Gary can be seen in the dialogue below:

DAVID: Mavis? I can't believe my eyes!

MAVIS: Hi David.

HEDDA (to David): Her hair looks incredible.

DAVID: Let me check...

He leans in as if to inspect it. Mavis cringes. David reaches for a lock of Mavis's hair and smells it. Her disgust is almost imperceptible, but it's there.

DAVID (CONT'D): Yep. Still smells like lilies. (*Young Adult*, 72)

This quote shows proof of Mavis's family environment, especially her stepfather, who engages in sexual activity which makes Mavis uncomfortable around her stepfather. When Mavis returns to her parents' house she meets her stepfather, David. They are having dinner and David does something inappropriate to Mavis. Maybe this is one of the factors in Mavis's personality disorder.

Furthermore, clinical observation and other evidence support the view that those who are raised in severely dysfunctional families are more likely to develop personality dysfunction (Magnavita 17). Livesley found that “parental psychopathology is associated with a variety of psychosocial adversities, such as trauma, family dysfunction, and family breakdown” (234). This family dysfunction is shown by Mavis Gary as the main character:

MATT: That's a good, uh, fact.

(beat) So are you seeing your family while you're here?

MAVIS: My family? Fuck my family!

MATT: Okay!

MAVIS: I don't have a "good" relationship with my stepfather, right? (*Young Adult*, 22)

Family factors can also influence how personality disorders develop. As we from the quote, Matt, a friend from her high school is the first person she meets when she returns to her hometown. When Matt asks Mavis if she has met her family, she answers without thinking that Mavis hates her family, especially her stepfather. What happened to Mavis' stepfather on her wedding day made Mavis hate David, her stepfather. This could also make Mavis Gary traumatized and not want to meet her stepfather. This trauma can cause histrionic personality disorder to develop.

Another proof of family dysfunction portrayed by Mavis Gary can be seen in the dialogue below:

INT. HEDDA'S CAR – DAY Mavis is now in the passenger seat while Hedda drives. Baguette is sitting comfortably in Hedda's lap.

HEDDA: This isn't a large town. You must have known we were bound to run into each other. MAVIS: I wasn't avoiding you. I was planning to call.

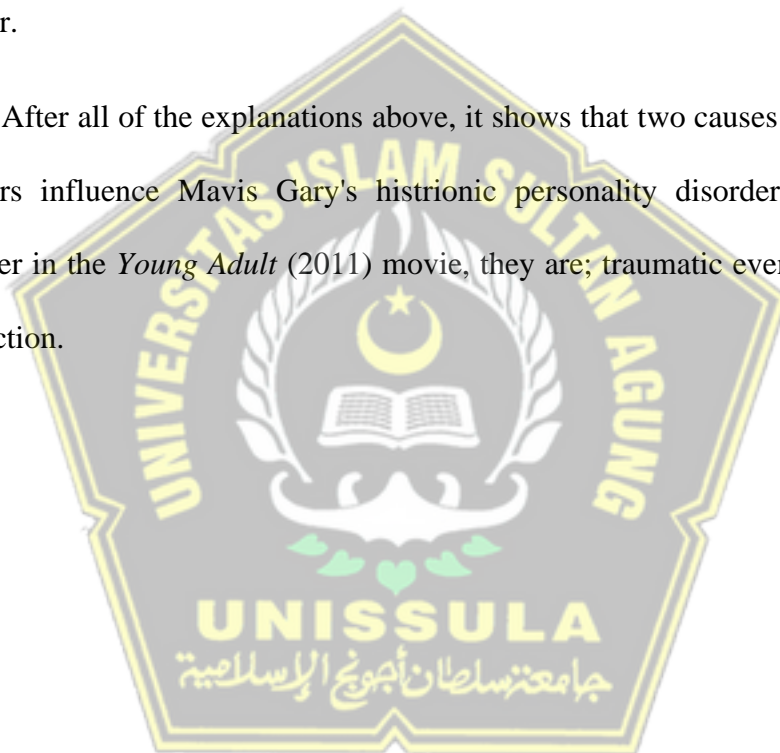
HEDDA: You never come home, and when you do, you hide from me and your dad. Curious behavior.

MAVIS: David is not my father.

HEDDA: I said "Dad." We've been over the difference. (*Young Adult*, 68)

Family breakdowns such as a divorced parent will also affect how the family environment takes place. From this quote, it shows that Mavis's parents divorced and her mother, Hedda, remarried her stepfather, David. Mavis does not like David as her father she does not consider David a father. The fact that Mavis no longer goes home and tries to hide from her family proves that the problems of divorce and her stepfather could be one of the causes of how her histrionic personality disorder.

After all of the explanations above, it shows that two causes of personality disorders influence Mavis Gary's histrionic personality disorder as the main character in the *Young Adult* (2011) movie, they are; traumatic events and family dysfunction.



CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Chapter five is the last chapter of this study. This chapter consists of two subchapters that present conclusions and suggestions according to the discussion in chapter four.

A. Conclusion

Based on the findings and discussion in chapter four, the data that has been collected from the film *Young Adult* (2011) states that Mavis Gary, as the main character, was diagnosed with histrionic personality disorder by fulfilling seven of the eight diagnostic criteria in the theory of personality disorder from the *American Psychiatric Association (APA)*. Furthermore, according to the data obtained from chapter four, it is identified that the causes of Mavis Gary have histrionic personality disorder are due to traumatic events when she experienced a miscarriage that occurred in the past and also family dysfunction which also has an impact on her personality disorder.

From the discussion, it can be concluded that this research provides several diagnostic criteria for the main character Mavis Gary. First, attention seeking, Mavis Gary always looking for attention from other people, if not, she will try to get everyone to pay attention to her, she can even "make up stories" to get attention. Second, interactions with others are often characterized by inappropriate sexual advances or provocative behavior, most of Mavis Gary's strategies are sexually seductive or provocative. Mavis Gary always said some teasing words when she

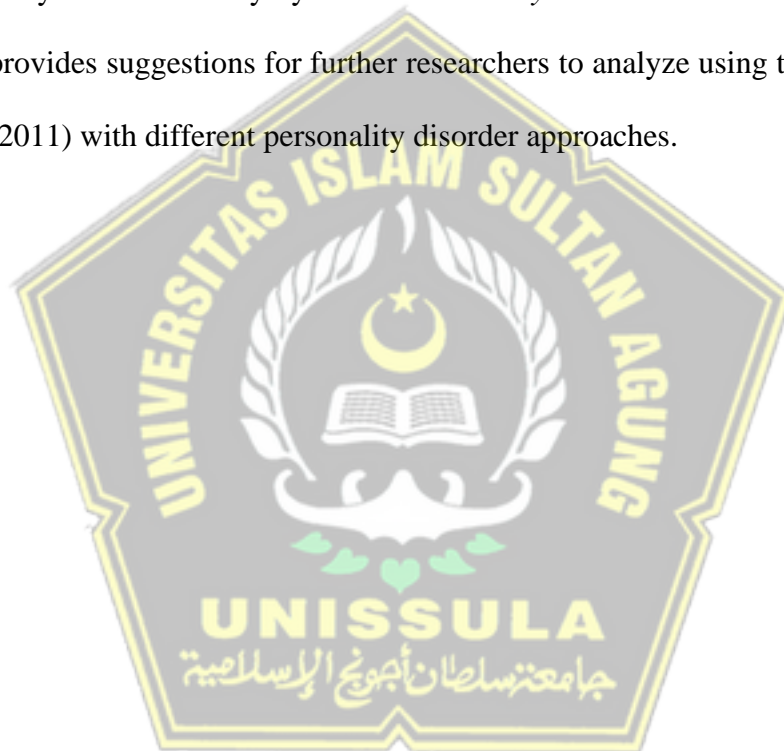
met Buddy. Third, consistently uses physical appearance to draw attention. Mavis Gary's behavior is that she always uses her physical appearance to tease Buddy, she never paid attention to her appearance before and changed drastically, going to the salon and buying sexy clothes when she wanted to meet Buddy. Fourth, have a style of speech that is too impressive and lacks detail. Mavis speaks freely but she tends to avoid serious things, causing her words to lack detail and meaning. Fifth, shows self-dramatization, theatrics, and excessive emotional expression. Mavis' behavior is always a bit exaggerated and theatrical; she does not care what other people's facts are and exaggerates her emotions. Sixth, suggestive (easily influenced by other people or circumstances). Mavis is easily influenced by situations and does not think about what will happen next. Lastly, consider the relationship more intimate than it is. Mavis's attitude towards Buddy is that she feels that Buddy knows everything about her, and Mavis feels that she is the person closest to Buddy. However, Mavis's attitude like that makes Buddy uncomfortable.

Furthermore, from the discussion, it can be concluded that there are two causes that make Mavis Gary have histrionic personality disorder. First, traumatic event, Mavis experienced several events in her life that traumatized her. Mavis has a miscarriage while she is with Buddy, her ex-boyfriend while she is in high school. This miscarriage incident still leaves an impression on Mavis which makes her unable to forget Buddy and this trauma is the main cause of her histrionic personality disorder. The second cause is family dysfunction. Mavis Gary's family is dysfunctional where her mother and her biological father divorce and she has a stepfather. Mavis seems to dislike her stepfather; she does not even want to call him

father. Furthermore, Mavis Gary also experienced sexual harassment by her stepfather during her previous marriage to her ex-husband. This incident makes Mavis Gary hate her stepfather and rarely comes home.

B. Suggestion

This research uses a psychological approach as its theoretical basis, namely the Personality Disorder theory by the *American Psychiatric Association (APA)*. This study provides suggestions for further researchers to analyze using the film *Young Adult* (2011) with different personality disorder approaches.



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