

A Psychopath Analysis on Amy's Character In *Gone Girl* Movie

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Abstract - Characters in a film follow the storyline of the film itself. The audience must pay attention to all characters in a film. Those characters play how the story goes. This research aims to explore characters of Amy. Amy is a wife of Nick. Amy is a psychopath in film *Gone Girl*. The writer will analyze the character of Amy as a psychopath, the causes, and the effect of Amy's psychopath to her husband. In analyzing the Amy's psychopath character, the writer refers to McCord (1964) about characteristics of psychopath. They divide psychopath into six categories: Asocial, Uncontrolled Desires, Highly Impulsive, Aggressive, Feels little guilt and a warped capacity for love. Besides analyzing the characteristics of Amy's psychopath, the writer also covers the causes that makes Amy's psychopath. In terms of causes, the writer refers to the theory from Page and Coleman (1978). They divide the causes into two: family disruption and economic aspects. The result of the analysis shows that those six characteristics in the theory are found in Amy's psychopath. While in terms of causes, that family disruption and economic aspects play important role on Amy's psychopath. The more cause is by family disruption. Related to the effects of Amy's psychopath to Nick, there are some events that push Nick to follow Amy's desires.

Keywords: Aggressive, Character, Family Disruption, Psychopath

INTRODUCTION

Literature is a literary work which tells an incident, situation, or feelings of the author. It could occur due to experience or from the author's imagination. Then, literary works can be classified according to whether it is poetry, fiction or non-fiction, dramas. There are many aspects of literary works one is movie. Movie is taken as the object of analysis in this paper. Compared to other form of entertainments, people find that movie is more enjoyable. It is due to some factors that movie can help people to make their imagination come real, also invite people to see new things they never imagined before. Movie is also effective to deliver current issue, moral values, point of view, even ideology. However, its implicit and multi-

interpretable messages frequently become the main factors of why people on enjoying movie. This exploration then will expand the function and the importance of movie itself, which is the portrayal of its age and society. Since movie can shape people's view about the world, it becomes the media to share voices and opinions, or simply criticizes political condition and the world around them. Many aspects of psychology become story theme in movie, for example abnormal psychology.

One of the psychological conditions that some movies raise about is psychopath. *Gone Girl* is one of movie about psychology psychopath. The reason is the writer interested to the story in the movie because the writer likes the field of psychology. The writer want to know more about the person Psychology. One of abnormal psychology is a psychopathic behavior which sometimes people indicate them as a mentally ill, but actually it differs with mentally ill people. Psychopaths it comes from the word psyche meaning soul and pathos meaning disease.

The background above raised writer curiosity to analyze a person suffering from a psychopath in that movie. The movie is directed by David Fincher which was released on September 26, 2014.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Movie

Movie becomes one of the most attractive media for a literary work. By watching a movie, we can imagine and dream in a story. Earlier, the movie was made to entertain someone. In this era of globalization, movie has another role as economic media. Below are theories of experts to explain the movie.

Hans (2008:8) states, "Movie is all connected throughout a story with several actors: human or animals, cartoony, realistic or very stylized and, with lots of emotions, action and fantastic worlds. People are part of a creation process in which a dream world comes alive." In another words, movie is an interesting motion picture sets that can give effect to the viewer to be able to feel like the real world of imagination with scenes played by actors or actresses.

Character

The story in the movie was produced by the presence of actors and actresses who take certain characters. Characters role in *Gone Girl* movie are shown in several ways. The director David Fincher usually has a message to convey to the audience that relates to real life watch *Gone Girl* movie. There are many experts who define the characters. Below are some theories about character to support the analysis.

Baldick (2008:37) says "Character is a personage in a narrative or dramatic work, also a kind of sketch briefly describing some recognizable type of person." From definition above, It can be concluded that every character in the movie provide pattern to describe her own personality and behavior.

Main Character

In fiction, a character can be conveniently classified into major and minor, static and dynamic. Main character is types of character and important element in story because audience when watch the movies focus in the main character. Below are some theories about character to support the analysis. As stated by Dunne (2009:113), "Main character's scene objective. A dramatic scene typically centers on one character pursuing one overriding scenic objective and encountering obstacles that make it difficult to achieve". Based on Dunne's statement, the main characters are given dramatic scene when they are pursuing something to be achieved.

Psychology

Psychology has always been popular topic within the movie. The action in the movie are analyze from the perspective of variety of psychological theories. King (1979:4) says, "Psychological knowledge is applied to various spheres of human activity including the family, education, employment, and to the treatment of mental health problems." It means by Robin, psychology can be an education and a job to be able to understand the character of someone who is experiencing mental health problem.

Psychopath

One of the psychology conditions about a psychopath. Psychopath is a symptom that indicates that someone is having an imbalance or a failure in harmonizing impulses constructive and destructive in itself, is usually triggered by the pressures or life or experiencing emotional trauma that caused the conflict who have not found a way out. But psychopath not same with schizophrenia, a real psychopath is normal, meaning that he/she was totally aware about all that done. The writer tries

to give the explanation about psychopath according to experts.

McCord and McCord as quoted by Forrest (1996:109) from McCord and McCord says, "Psychopath is an asocial, aggressive, highly impulsive person, who feels little or no guilt and is unable to form lasting bonds of affection with human being" based on the explanation above the definition of psychopath is concerning to the act of a person with an asocial, aggressive, highly impulsive person and form those act the people feel little or no guilt.

RESEARCH METHOD

The writer uses descriptive qualitative method because the writer describes and analysis the data and the result of the study into short essays in writing this research. By this method, the writer tries to analyze Amy's characteristics and the factors that causes Amy's psychopath.

Library research is about the writer finds out or collects the data from the source is movie *Gone Girl*. The data of the writer analysis is the scene and the dialogue which related with psychopath Amy on the *Gone Girl* movie.

In analyzing psychopath Amy on the movie *Gone Girl* directed David Fincher, the writer has some steps and needs data and references from a lot of sources.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

From the start writer is going to analyze each characteristic of psychopath in Amy's character. Afterwards the writer discuss about the factor that causes Amy's psychopath the writer uses causes of psychopath by Page and Coleman. The data collected by watching the movie, mark the scenes, and rewrite the dialogues and identified using the table from modified the writer to shown characteristic psychopath Amy on movie *Gone girl* by theory William and McCord and causes psychopath by Page and Coleman.

Characteristic of Psychopath Amy's on *Gone Girl* movie

William and McCords (1964:8) described six key features of the psychopath: *asocial, uncontrolled desires, highly impulsive, aggressive, feels little guilt, a warped capacity for love*. Based on the data, the writer found all the characteristics of psychopath in Amy.

Asocial

The psychopath is *asocial* emphasized that the psychopath's behavior, in general, was extremely disruptive, destructive, and threatening to society and its good order. Amy as an asocial psychopath can be shown by some of the data or dialogs in the movie.

Her asocial can also be seen in datum 1, as Amy has no friends in the environment where she lives in now. So, it is difficult for the Detective Rhonda to make such investigation about Amy as there is not sufficient information that can be obtained from the people around their home.

Datum 1
00:16:44 → 00:16:54

Rhonda : "Has Amy got friends we can talk to?"
Nick : "Um...No, not really."
Rhonda: "**No friends? This whole town?**"
Nick: "She was very close with my mom, before she passed away."

Uncontrolled Desires

The psychopath is driven by *uncontrolled desires* specifically, that is, the psychopath was said to lack the ability to restrain, control, and/or delay his immediate need for gratification, pleasure, and fulfillment.

Amy is a crazy person for treasure hunt. She did all of this for treasure hunt, by giving clues. Detective Boney and Nick found some clues of treasure hunt, and this guides them and give them some direction of Amy's disappear.

Datum 4
00:28:21 → 00:28:30

Rhonda: "It'll help me track Amy's movements before she disappeared."
Nick: "Of course. Okay."

Clue One

"All thought this spot couldn't be tighter"
"**It is a cozy room** for my favorite writer"

Clue Two

00:28:56 → 00:29:14

Amy: "Hey, handsome man, let's go undercover, You'll be the spy, and I'll be his lover.
"Let's head on over... **"to the little brown house.**
"We'll play hot, doting husband, sweet, loving spouse."

Clue three

00:31:34 → 00:31:50

Amy: Picture me, I'm a girl who's very, very bad. I need to be punished, and by **"punished,"** I mean **"had."**
It's where you keep goodies for anniversary five.
"So open the door, and look alive."
Characteristic uncontrolled desires the writer

shown in datum 8 give the picture. How Amy make fraudulent schemes with situation in Desi house lot CCTV to support Amy to lying ex-boyfriend Desi Colling was kidnapped and rape her. She is to take a convincing murder, she is discipline to made the plans.

Datum 8
02:00:11 → 02:01:19



Figure III.1 Amy set up for plan

Highly Impulsive

The psychopath is *highly impulsive* that his or her behavior was often capricious, unplanned, and generally lacking in goal direct.

Amy even has marked on the calendar for each in the 5th from the month to self-kill. She is behavior are like fickle and unclear objectives is also described her an impulsive as any she felt she would change his plans to revoke a sign that she had previously made in the calendar.

Datum 11
01:15:20 → 01:15:28



Figure III.2 Amy makes schedule kill self

By looking at the following datum, Amy is really highly impulsive. By looking at the following

datum 12, Amy is really highly impulsive After Nick in talk show on nasional television where Nick says “**I love her**”. Amy have a desire to come back to nick. Remembering how Amy has drawn up a plan in a disciplined manner nick want to throw into prison on Amy loss. But the plan changed after Amy watching Sharon talk show on national television where Nick says as a bad husband but he not muderer and had broken promises to Amy to be the man she wants but he want to try become she wants.

Datum 12
01:51:03 → 01:53:40



Figure III.3 Amy show Nick on talk show Sharon

Aggressive

The psychopath is *aggressive* emphasized that the psychopath’s a sociality was often expressed in the form of “brutal aggression”, for pleasure often clashes with the restrictions of society. Aggressive action” For the psychopath, they argued, any form of frustration or delay of gratification would prompt extreme aggression. In Datum 15, Amy is eagerly and bravely doing like inject her body to make it bleeding, blood all over the floor. It is supported by the statement “The blood if profuse”. It tells the situation of someone who did that thing is a very aggressive person, to make blood of her for unmedical purposes. Amy did it, more her blood up to the kitchen. This describes that she did it without fear of the blood, fear of injection. By this facts, it can be said that Amy is aggressive, a characteristics of psychopath. This also suits to William and McCord’s theory (1964).

Datum 15
00:53:46 → 00:54:03

Police: So, luminol lit up the kitchen like the 4th of July.
Gilpin: Whoa.
Police: Yeah. **The blood is profuse.** It is Amy’s, type B, and we should have DNA soon.

Rhonda: Thoughts on a weapon?
Police: Trajectory indicates blunt force.

Amy’s willing to hurt herself for making a different face with hitting it with a hammer. If someone who does not characteristic aggressive psychopath who saw a hammer in front of her, she is unlikely to be hit with a beautiful face with her hand.

Datum 16
01:12:37 → 01:12:57



Figure III.5 Amy’s willing to hurt herself

Feels Little Guilt

The psychopath *feels little guilt* emphasized that the psychopath could commit even the most appalling acts of violence with “conscienceless abandon” In later reflecting upon such acts, the psychopath would typically display little, if any, indication of genuine remorse. The following dialog also tells that Amy never feels guilt or only having little feel guilt. Amy did it of course knowing the risk. But, she seems never feel guilty. More, the scenes never express Amy’s regret of her actions. She did it without being feeling guilty. Yes, she enjoyed doing those actions. This condition match’s with the characteristics of psychopath proposed based on William and McCord 1964.

Datum 18
02:12:40 → 02:13:02

Nick: **You killed someone**, Amy.
Amy: I am fighter. I fought my way back to you
Nick: You killed a guy. You slashed his troat with a box cutter.
Amy: You went on national television and begged for me to save your life. And I obliged but **I want that Nick** .

By looking at the following data, Amy is really feels guilt. It is marked by lacking in goal. As in the expression “**..I’ve killed for you. Who else can say that?**” Words in bold shows Amy speak easily out

of his mouth to Nick. As something to murderer it is an easy thing to do. Amy had killed one person in order to return to Nick and it does not mean she could not do it back in her life without any feel guilt after doing so.

Datum 19
02:21:50 → 02:22:00

Amy: **I've killed for you. Who else can say that?** You think you would be happy with a nice Midwestern girl? Now way baby. I'm it.

A Warped Capacity For Love

Causes of Psychopath Amy's on *Gone Girl* movie

The following will be analysis on causes of Amy's psychopath based on the theory of Page and Coleman. To review, Page and Coleman divide causes of psychopath into two; Family disruption and Economic aspects. Data that support the causes will be presented in table 3.2 Causes of Psychopath. After the disruption. The following data will show some of characteristics that play role for family disruption of Nick and Amy.

Amy causes uncontrolled desires because she is jealous with Nick have love affair. When Amy will gives surprise to Nick but Amy looks Nick an out with the young girl from the bar. Nick did the exact same thing with her. After the situation Amy uncontrolled desire and make a plan to get a Nick alleged to have killed her.

Datum 2
01:18:34 → 01:19:20

Amy: "I went to the bar where he works to

surprise him. An out he comes with this girl.. who had no business being in a bar. On the very first night that we met. We walked by a bakery that was having their sugar delivered. And it was in the air, everywhere. A sugar storm. And before he kissed me. **He leaned in. did this. (Nick clean lips this girls with two finger)** And guess what."

Greta:
"What??"

Amy: **"He did the exact same thing with her."**

Another family disruption can be shown through this dialogue. Here, it can be another cause for family disruption. The fact is that Nick and Amy are married, just married. But Amy herself still makes contact with her ex boyfriend – Desi Collings. Amy still receives a letter from Desi. This makes

Nick as her husband stressfull enough. This makes family disruption for Nick and Amy.

Datum 3
01:01:59 → 01:02:18

Margo: "when your poor Amy has a cold, this dessert just.."

This is the clue you couldn't solve." Nick: "Yeah."

Margo: "A letter from Desi. That creepy boyfriend of Amy's?"

Nick: "It was the fucking rich guy who would do anything for her."

It just kept hanging over my head. It was disgusting."

Economic Aspects

Coming from poor homes, unemployed or engaged in unskilled and low- income occupations are some characteristics of economic aspects. In the following data, the economic aspects are shown and analyzed. Nick and Amy are just starting a new family. There must be unexpected needs for their daily lifes. The condition is even worse that they have to move to Nick's parents house to take care Nick's sick parents. It results in Nick and Amy are in a recession, or financial big problems. It is supported by the expression "We're in a recession". Recession is one of signs to economic problems. This suits to the cause of psychopath based on James D. Page and James C. Coleman theory.

Datum 4
00:32:27 → 00:32:38

Nick: "I think I'm gonna be laid off."
Amy: **"We're in a recession.** If it happens, we'll deal with it. I'll probably be next."

The other economic aspects for Nick and Amy is when Amy decided to give her parents \$879,000 without asking permission from Nick. Nick against Amy, but Amy thinks no problems. This brings this new family into deeper financial problems. Then Nick also spends money by buying video game.

Datum 5
00:32:27 → 00:32:38

Nick: "I think I'm gonna be laid off."
Amy: **"We're in a recession.** If it happens, we'll deal with it. I'll probably be next."

Effect of Amy's Psychopath Behavior to Nick

With respect to psychopathology, an individual high in neuroticism may tend to respond to unfriendly interactions with higher levels of distress, anxiety, and hurt than would someone low in neuroticism. Over time, those two individuals are likely to depart further in their ongoing experience of subjective distress by Maher & Maher (1994: 72). By the storyline of *Gone Girl* movie, Amy is the main character who has psychopathic character. Her psychopath makes some effects on Nick, her husband.

The storyline still relates to the treasure hunt which is all planned by Amy. The day when Amy was disappeared or missing pushed Nick to make press conference. In the press conference, Nick and his parents' in law announced that Amy is missing. Nick needed help from Amy's lover to help them find Amy. Although Nick and his parents' in law make a press conference, but public think that Nick play a very important role for Amy's missing. People think that Nick is the person that must be responsible for Amy's disappeared. It is more because in the press conference Nick must smile beside Amy's poster.

Datum 1
00:26:54



Figure III.6 Nick smiles at press conference

On the press conference, Amy pushed Nick that Nick must admit that all of these things is with Nick's agreement. Nick knew all of Amy's treasure hunt. Amy threatens Nick. Amy insists her husband to admit of anything that he never did. Amy even more threatens Nick that if Nick did not do as Amy's wants, public will envy Nick.

Datum 4
02:13:42



Figure III.9 Amy threatens Nick

CONCLUSION

The conclusions that can be presented here are related to the psychopath of Amy. Amy is a great and smart psychopath portrayed in the film by the film director. Amy's psychopath sometimes is directly stated in several expressions of characters in the film. Amy is a smart psychopath as she planned all the treasure hunt and managed her losses very good. Nobody ever thinks that Amy planned the missing by herself. Public think that Nick is the person who must be responsible for Amy's disappeared. The fact shows that Amy did it herself. This is the reason to say that Amy is a very smart psychopath. In relation to the theory from William and McCord, the characteristics of Amy as a psychopath match the theory.

In relation to the factors that cause Amy being a psychopath, it can be addressed that there are two causes. The family disruption and economic aspects are two causes that play role to make Amy becomes a psychopath. Starting from Nick's affair with his university student, Shawna's shared photograph, and also Amy's affair with her ex-boyfriend. These are all for family disruption. Of course economic problem also cause and support Amy's psychopath. As a new family, Nick and Amy are in a great recession, no job, credit card dump up, and bumping up the life insurance. These conditions bring Nick and Amy into a big financial problem.

In terms of the effects of Amy's psychopath to Nick, that Nick is a powerless husband. He is trapped on Amy's treasure hunts. Nick cannot do anything to against Amy's want. Nick was insisted to follow all Amy's desires.

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PROFILE

Cicili Nuraeni was born in Ciamis, West Java, on February 24, 1987. She is the youngest child from two. She completed the elementary school in SDN Kawunglarang II, Rancah Ciamis and graduated in 1999. Then continued her study in SLTPN 1 Rancah and graduated in 2002. In 2005, the author completed his studies at SMA Negeri 1 (SMAN 1) North Cikarang,

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