

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer made an introduction. It consists of background of research, statement of problem, research objective, research significance, and definition of key term.

### 1.1 Background

Literature is commonly assumed as a creative and imaginative writing. In other words, Eagleton (1987) argues that literature uses a peculiar way in language, it does not merely talk about beauty, it also contains unusual words: such as metaphor, simile, and other figurative languages. Furthermore, the term of literature is used to mention phenomena of culture that can be seen in all society, such as in social, economic, and religious life.

There are three genres on literature, they are prose, poetry, and drama. Meanwhile novel is included to prose, because as Hawthorne (1) said that novel is in prose rather than in verse poetry, though novel can be really 'poetic'. Based on Metheu in Hendriani (1), the word 'novel' itself is derived from the word 'novella' and the term 'novella' is used for a description of each collection about a hundred narratives which appeared in the latter half of thirteenth century. Unlike other literary works such as poem, novel is the longest one which seriously offers a long complicated story.

One of the novel is *Heartsick* written by Chelsea Cain, she is the New York Times bestselling author. *Heartsick* published in september 2007. This novel is considered as a successful novel because it is one of New York Times bestseller that was translated into more than twenty languages include Bahasa Indonesia. Harrison (2015) stated in her blog, that "*Heartsick* is a dizzying novel. Lurid and suspenseful with well-drawn characters, plenty of grisly surprises and tart dialogue, it delivers what readers of this

particular kind of thriller expect. But the risk of emulating a virtuoso longtime best seller like “The Silence of the Lambs” is failing to equal it”.

This novel tells the story of a serial killer named Gretchen Lowell who works as a nurse, she is obsessed by a man Archie Sheridan. Archie was a detective assigned to lead the investigation into the case of “serial killer” which is done by Gretchen. Archie was smart enough to be able to resolve the case, but Gretchen who was obsessed by him is much smarter. A serial killer who has a remarkable beauty was known to torture on her victims. The victim can only survive three till four days. But unlike when Gretchen took hostage Archie though she did things like the sadistic, nailing a nail into the rib Archie, carve the skin with a scalpel and fed him with cleaning fluid. Archie could survive for ten days before being discovered by the police and Gretchen detained. Gretchen strangely even granted him free, and she handed herself to the police. That form of love for Archie, she was very happy to see Archie tortured, but do not let Archie losing his life.

Two years after the incident, Archie was not his true self again. In his minded he always thought of Gretchen, a woman who once loved and tortured him while he was held captive. Even the rest of his torture, he can still felt, and made him take painkillers for the rest of his life. His family was destroyed after the incident, his wife and children left him because Archie often behaves strangely. Archie thinks, this is the way of Gretchen to make him tortured of his lifetime.

Another time Archie is recalled for resolving the case “Killer After School”. Three high school students disappeared, they are abducted, raped and murdered and then their bodies was dumped. Henry Sobol friend Archie, had doubted that Archie could do it. He is wrong. Archie even was popular because he had been a victim of an abduction of Gretchen, now have to deal with the case that reminded him to Gretchen. Susan Ward a

reporter assigned to create a profile of Archie Sheridan. To comply her duties, Susan Ward had to go and uncover what was already happening on Archie.

Until the end the case of “After School Killer” has been revealed by Archie and his team. It turns out there is relation the killer goal with past live of Susan Ward. This novel in Chelsea Cain described in great detail, and with a reverse chronology are easily understood. The author also prefers the story through dialogue between the characters rather than make the description by the author’s perspective. At the end of the story, the relationship of Gretchen and Archie are still tight. Beside that Archie needs to met Gretchen a once a week to get a description of the location of the buried of Gretchen’s victim that reached until 200 of people. Moreover, Archie cannot escape the charm of that beautiful psychopath.

The novel involves two elements; intrinsic and extrinsic. One of intrinsic element is character. Character refers to persons or actors that do events and make something in the story. Afterwards, in the story character plays an important role, because without the actors who hold the action, the story may not be exist. Based on Forster in Adi (43), has divided character into flat and round character. Flat characters are easily to be recognized and easily remembered by reader because they can be seen only in one side. Furthermore they are less than representation of human personality. Round characters are multi dimensional characters, and are not easily to be recognized in their complexities of nature and unusual actions.

The first character Gretchen Lowell in that novel has an abnormal personality represents the sadistic. The person who enjoys hurting others and interest in the act of cruelty, weapons, injury, or torture. Some characteristic of sadist proposed by American Psychiatric Association in Lavesque(1) that sadistic personality disorder is characterized by an individual’s pattern of cruel, harsh, aggressive, intimidating,

humiliating, and demeaning behavior. Furthermore, Sadistic personality disorder has several characteristics it emphasize by DSM-II-Rin Levesque (1), those characteristics included the use of cruelty or violence for the purpose of establishing dominance in a relationship; humiliating or demeaning people in the presence of others, unusually harsh treatment or discipline of someone under their control, being amused or taking pleasure in the psychological suffering of others, lying for the purpose of haring or inflicting pain on others, frightening others to get what they want out of them, restricting the autonomy of those with whom they have relationships, and fascination violence, weapons, martial arts, injury, or torture”. Then Millon (531) proposed that sadistic traits and behaviors are common.

Sadists may think of themselves as energetic, assertive, and realistic. What is dominating and callous to others is competitive and not overly sentimental to the sadist, who views kindness as weakness. By normalizing their pathological characteristics, sadistic personalities enhance their self-image of strength, power, and forthrightness.

Those are characteristic will be analyze on Gretchen. As have been explained before, she is a beautiful serial killer who pleasure to tortured, inflicted pain on others, and killed at least 200 peoples, make her victim in pain as like burned their bodies, filleted their bodies, and so on.

The second character is Archie Sheridan, in that story he played as the detective who tracking Gretchen Lowell a beautiful serial killer. But he become a victim too, and let's himself being subjected to pain. Those are characteristic indicated into masochistic; a person who pleasure being subject to pain.

According to Davison (385), masochism disorder is an intense and recurrent desir`e to obtain or increase sexual gratification through being subjected to pain or humiliation.

Afterwards, DSM-5 in Davison (385) proposed criteria for sexual masochism disorder, they are for at least 6 months, recurrent, intense and sexually arousing fantasies, urges, or behaviors involving the act of being humiliated, beaten, bound, or made to suffer. Then causes marked distress or impairment in functioning.

In *Heartsick* novel, the writer found their uncommon behaviour that can be seen on Gretchen and Archie. She was tortured Archie Sheridan so cruel as like forced to drink drain cleaner, removed his spleen, use hammer and nail for hurting, and so on. Then masochism seen on Archie Sheridan's character, he lets himself being subjected to pain by Gretchen.

Based on the background of the problem above, this research will concerns with the two main character's disorder (sadistic and masochistic personality disorder).

## 1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the explanation of background study and and scope of the study above, the writer formulated the problems as follow:

1. How is the abnormality of Gretchen's character constructed in Cain's *Heartsick*?
2. How is the abnormality of Archie's character constructed in Cain's *Heartsick*?
3. What are the differences of them?

## 1.3 Research Objective

The objective of the research are mentioned as followings:

1. To analyze the abnormality of Gretchen's character in *Heartsick's*.
2. To analyze the abnormality of Archie's character in *Heartsick*.
3. To find out the differences of them.

#### **1.4 Research Significance**

Theoretically, it is hoped that this research can be used as helpful reference in order to understand the content of the novel. This research is also hoped to be studied by students, lecturers, or other people who will be interested to the novel.

Practically, it is hoped that the research can be used as reference for the student who are interested or analyzed in this novel or even more other novel, and it is hoped that this research can be used to other people who love novel in order to understand the novel deeply as a reading material. Finally, the whole significances hopefully can be additional reference, especially for people who are studying literature.

#### **1.5 Definition of Key Terms**

The writer has arranged the key term as follows:

1. Character

According to Abrams (42), characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as possessing particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it the dialogue and from what they do the action.

2. Psychoanalysis

Psychoanalysis at first is a study in the field of psychology then developed as one of forms of literary criticism, which uses some of techniques of psychoanalysis in the interpretation of literature.

3. Abnormality

Is a person's trait, thinking or behavior rare or statistically unusual.

4. The Paraphilias

The Paraphilia's are a group of persistent sexual behavior patterns in which unusual objects, rituals, or situations are required for full sexual satisfaction.

(Carson & Butcher: 354)

5. Sadistic disorder

A paraphilia in which sexual gratification is derived from activities that harm, or from urges to harm, another person.

6. Masochistic disorder

A paraphilia marked by an attraction to achieving sexual gratification by having painful stimulation applied to one's own body.

