

## PSYCHOPATHIC ACTION IN *LOVES MUSIC LOVES TO DANCE* NOVEL

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### **Abstract**

*The writer applied the theories that were relevant and support in this thesis, those are: Psychological approach, theory of psychopath and characteristics of psychopath. Meanwhile, the writer used descriptive qualitative research and library research to make complete this thesis. The data and data source is taken from the novel, Loves Music Loves to Dance by Mary Higgins Clark like: the dialogue, and narration. And the data source required from books, journals, and articles in internet sites related to the topic discussed. Moreover, the analysis is the main point in composing this thesis in order to figure out the action of Charley's psychopath as a serial killer. The result of the analysis is psychopath has his own view which is very different from a normal person and psychopath usually cannot stop his action until the satisfaction of his own fulfilled.*

**Keywords:** Psychopath; Psychopathic Action; main character

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## INTRODUCTION

Every person has so many experience in their life, there are some experience can make someone stronger or weaker in their life. There are some kinds of experiences happy or sad. So many memories affect the characterization and personalities of some people. When someone gets sad or bad experience, then that experience makes it collapsed, it would greatly affect the psychology condition of someone. When someone goes into normal life, most of it will bring the normal psychology condition. It is different from someone who has got bad memories. These memories probably stimulate psychology of someone into various conditions and it could be possible to suffer from psychological disorder. In the world of psychological disorder, there is craziness called psychopath. According to Greenspan (2003) psychopaths are agents who lack the normal capacity to feel moral emotions e.g. guilt based on empathy with the victims of their actions.

Psychopaths have their own personalities and different from common people. Physically psychopath is same as is common people but different from the

ways of thinking or psychological idea of others. According to Hare (2002:137), psychopath describes psychopaths as interspecies predators who use charm, manipulation, intimidation, sex and violence to control others and to satisfy their own selfish needs. It means that psychopaths always express as if an innocent person, creates manipulation to deceive the victim. The psychopathic action really happens in society, but most of people find it in a literature works which is mostly pictured in a novel. The writer gets interested in dealing psychopathic action with a legendary novel written by Mary Higgins Clark in 2003 entitled *Loves Music Loves to Dance*.

*Loves Music Loves to Dance* tells about Charley as main character who loves a woman but he is afraid of expressing his feeling to the woman because she was engaged to another man. Every day the man pays attention to all activities of the woman he loved. Someday, he feels that he cannot possess the woman. This reality makes the man thinks that no one will have her as wife. He decides to kill the woman in order not belonging to someone else. Since killing her, every time he falls in love with other women, he will do the same thing to the women. His action becomes headline in *New York's* trendy magazine which at that time was the entertainment for women and men. Then, the news of murder in *New York's* trendy magazine becomes a disaster since a killer is playing a horrible death dance, and he uses personal ads to bind his victims. *Loves Music Loves to Dance* is a novel that describes the romance of young lover who becomes the murderer by playing a horrible death dances to kill his couple. Of the description above the idea is about psychopathic action in the main character to deceive the victims, by bringing the victims to dance with him. The writer uses psychological approach to analyze the main character in the novel, because there is relationship between the story of *Loves Music Loves to Dance* and psychopathic action for the main character of the novel, the writer believes that it will support this research. Therefore, the writer conducts this research with the title Psychopathic Action Reflected in the Main Character Shown in *Loves Music Loves to Dance* by Mary Higgins Clark. Psychology is the science of behavior and mental processes. This means that psychologist use the methods of science to investigate all kinds of behavior and mental processes, from

the activity of a single nerve cell to the social conflicts in a complex society, from the development of language in childhood to the adjustments required in old age (Bernstein, et al. 1998:5).

Of the definition above, it can be mentioned that psychology is the study to analyze the process of mental and behavior in human life. It can assist people to know the characteristic of someone or others, basically from the definition in above psychology is some kinds of scientific study of human behavior and mental process of individual. Behavior is the action of someone can be directly observed by the society and mental process is mental activity that uses thinking, feeling, understanding and controlling the behavior. Meanwhile, Baron (2001: 32) states psychology offers far more than a collection of interesting facts; it provides a new way of thinking about our own feeling, thought, and action, plus those of other persons.

Those definitions means that psychology studies how people act and do their mental activities using their mind and their motivation as the basic thing of the authority in doing something to be good one in every aspect of human behavior and experience. So, learning psychology in literary work refers to learning about human being; therefore, it is easier for people to understand each other. In conducting the research related to psychology, there are so many kinds of psychology approach which is useful for discipline which involves the scientific study of human mental and behavior

Hare (2009:190) describes the psychopath as interspecies predators that use charm, manipulation, intimidation, sex and violence to control others and to meet their own needs. This means less conscience and empathy, they take what they want and do what they please, violating social norms and expectations without guilt or regret. What is missing, in other words, is a very quality that allows humans to live in social harmony. Psychopath is glib and superficially charming, and many psychopaths are excellent mimics of normal human emotion, some psychopaths can blend in, undetected, in a variety of surroundings, including corporate environments (Hare, 2009:190).

The thought above indicates that, the psychopath is the study of the soul or mind that affects behavior in mental illness. There is no cure or effective treatment for psychopaths, no drugs or other techniques that can instill empathy, and psychopaths who undergo traditional talk therapy only become more adept at manipulating others. Psychopaths usually refer to what is unique about that person, characteristics that distinguish him or her from themselves. A psychopath can have high verbal intelligence but they have lack emotional intelligence. There are some characteristic of psychopathic action as Lack of Empathy, Irresponsibility, Impulsive Behavior, Poor Behavior Control, Compulsive Lying, Manipulative,

To make the sense and run the story in literary works, especially novel, authors must creates more than a character. The authors will write the plot with various characters, for instance, protagonist and antagonist. These characters can be classified into main or major character and minor related to the focus of the story. The classification of major (here after in thesis called main character) and minor character is declared by Reich (2004:43). All the way through the theory of character, we can figure and analyze it during the dialogues of the main character in the novel. Main character is the central figure of the intention in the story who experience all the events in the story either protagonist or antagonist (Reich, 2000).

## **METHOD**

Method of research is the most important thing to conduct the research and to find the answer in analyzing literary work. Descriptive qualitative method is applied in this research, because in researching literary work we need to interpret and describe the data clearly by using sentence to express the idea in analyzing the topic. Qualitative research is multi method the writer focuses, naturalistic approach to its subject matter. This means that qualitative research in natural setting, attempting, to make sense of the meaning's people bring to them (Denzin and Lincoln, 2008), and qualitative research is science means the analysis they seek out why, not the how of its topic through the analysis of unstructured information (Martyn, 2008: 87).

To support this analysis the writer applies library research to find the data source. All the data that found should have correlation each others to describe psychopathic action reflected in the main character shown in *Loves Music Loves to Dance* by Mary Higgins Clark. That is the reason why, to support and help the writer applies Psychological approach. In this research, the data are the dialogues and narrations which describe the psychopathic action reflected in the main character shown in *Loves Music Loves to Dance* by Mary Higgins' novel, To collect the data of this thesis, the writer uses a technique known library research. This technique is done by employing some steps as followings:

1. Finding the data source is the first step to support analysis by reading carefully every narration, dialogue and epilogue in the novel by Mary Higgins Clark.
2. Concerning several issues in the novel becomes the next step done in choosing social identity reconstruction issue that will be analyzed.
3. Identifying some narration, dialogues and to identify them whether they have correlated or not to this thesis.
4. The final steps in conducting this thesis are collecting and arranging the data, and analyzing them based on Versteppen theory of psychopathic action.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

Based on the story, the main character kills his victims by using high hill shoes for dancing and he knows what size of the shoe the victim that he want to kill by dying in his arms in dancing. A psychopath can have high verbal intellect but they have lack emotional intellect. The motives of a psychopath are generally unclear, psychopath doing something with how they feel; he does not feel guilty what he did with the victims. There are some characteristics of psychopathic action to know the behavior of psychopath as following:

### 1. Lack of Empathy

Charley as main character cannot control his emotion, in killing his victim without any empathy when the victim feels fear and threatened by his action, he can feel satisfied and happy when he see the victim in fear.

It was Charley who had run after her, grabbed her, and thrown her to the ground. Charley's hands squeezed her throat until her arms stopped flailing. Charley fastened the slippers on her feet and dances with Nan, her head lolling on his shoulder. Charley lay her on the ground, one of the dancing slippers on her right foot, replacing the Nike on her left.  
(Clark, 1999:2)

Of the narration above, it is reflected a psychopath will do not thing and consider what is going to happen if he kills the girl. He just concern on his passion to kill the victims and feel satisfied. The narration is related to a characteristics of psychopath i.e. lack of empathy where a psychopath does action depends on his mood and ignores the effect later. The idea is centered in a statement; it was Charley who had run after her, grabbed her, and thrown her to the ground. His hand throttles her neck and makes her faint, and then she dies. Charley fastens dancing slippers to Nan; he dances with Nan's corpse. He forces the corpse to dance and feels very happy since successfully holding Nan's body. He changes her Nike on right leg with dancing slipper. Nan wore right leg and left dancing slipper. For a normal person, it is taboo to do, but Charley without any empathy did it to Nan, moreover she dies. Hence, it is said that the characteristic of psychopath reveals in this quotation is lack of empathy.

### 2. Impulsive Behavior

He'd wished her a happy birthday, her open the box, listened to her insincere thanks. He'd put his arms around her. "Nan, I love you so much. Let me see how pretty your feet look in the slippers. I'll fasten them for you. We can dance together right here."  
"Get lost!" she pushed him away, threw the box at him, started to jog past him.  
(Clark, 1992: 2)

In this quotation, the dialogue uttered by Charley as main character explains the narration which is related to his psychopathic characteristic; impulsive behavior, he put his arm around her. He did that action to Nan is aim to compel his right idea. This is asserted by her respond to chase Charley getting lost. As a psychopath Charley shows his impulsive behaviors, what thing he wants must be owned and reached. He really wants to dance with Nan wearing dancing slippers bought by him while tightening the ankle trap to her beautiful legs. Therefore dancing with Nan even she rejected it and fought until losing her life is a pleasure for Charley because he has reached his goal, although she had to dies is expressing his impulsive behavior as psychopath.

### 3. Poor Behavior Control

The expression of psychopath in front of the victim they try to a normal person, but when they are fell urgency their will do action without any empathy.

A long time had passed. Charley had become a blurred memory, a shadowy figure lurking somewhere in the recesses of his mind, until two year ago. Then Charley had started reminding him about Nan, about her slender, high-arched feet, her narrow ankles, her beauty and grace when she danced with him....  
(Clark, 1992: 2)

In this quotation there is a clause signs a description of action done by Charley, a shadowy figure lurking somewhere in the recesses of his mind. The clause shows that Charley sometimes acts uncontrolled because he lost his consciousness for most of his lives. He reminds his action to Nan, his first victims, two years ago. He thinks of time goes by slowly where he imagines her slender high arched feet, her narrow ankles, her beauty and grace when she danced with him. He believes in doing normal behavior as many psychopaths exhibit to behave exactly as they are please at any time they have an urge.

#### 4. Compulsive Lying

A psychopath is very clever in lying, they are deceive the victim to make a victims do not suspicion to them. It make there are easy do the action to kill the victims.

“Perfect. Believe it or not, I have a pair of evening slippers that should fit you. My sister asked me to pick up a pair she had ordered in that size. Like the good big brother I did as I was told. Then she phoned and told me to take them back. She’d found a pair she liked better.”

Erin had laughed with him. “Just like a kid sister.”

“I’m not going to be bothered running around returning them.” The camera stayed on her, catching her smiling, content expression as she looked around the room.

(Clark, 1992: 48)

Psychopaths do action in getting trust of victims. This action ability and premier weapon to mislead someone, is called compulsive lying. Characteristic of compulsive lying is reflected in the quotation above, when charley as main character lies Erin about slippers dance numbered seven and a half narrow with open toes and backs while heels as narrow as stilettos which is completed with a gossamer ankle trap and still wrapped in tissue is belonged to his sister. It contrast with his real condition that he does not have any siblings, for he is the only child of his parents. He just goes up stairs to take the slippers which have been prepared in various sizes. Charley lies Erin successfully, he acts as if real good big brother and wants to take the slippers back to the store because his imaginative sister got the better one. Erin believes him, since he is playing role; professional psychiatrist. Therefore, this quotation indicates that as main character Charley is a good liar who is compulsive to be a psychopath.

#### 5. Manipulative

For the psychopath they are very clever to manipulate all the condition, to make the victim fell comfortable beside him, so he can easy to kill the victim.

If only Nan had liked him, he thought. If only she'd invited him to her birthday party fifteen years ago. . .  
He'd loved her so much! He'd followed her to Darien with the present he'd bought her at a discount house, a pair of dancing slippers. The cardboard shoebox had been plain and cheap. And he'd taken such trouble to decorate it, drawing a sketch of the slippers on the lid.  
(Clark, 1992: 1).

In reference to the quotation the narration describes that main character tries to remain a reason of his action to Nan. Charley expresses his idea as if Nan is main cause to do despicable thing for all victims. Charley blames Nan to all her decision, such as birthday party invitation, to dislike him, and making him cry. All of the things are unfair for Charley, since he gives her love and interest. Nan does not respect to his love. This idea becomes basic thing to do his act. In truth, cruel action done to the one loved is totally wrong for a normal person. Charley does not judge himself, but he makes fine reason of his action and behavior. The narration is a truth that Nan is one of psychopath's characteristics i.e. manipulative where the true condition is conjured up to be wrong. The narration above how Nan as victim refers to the very wrong person for Charley so proper that being tortured.

## CONCLUSION

A psychopath can do so many cruel or horrible things which are unpredictable and psychopath has his own characteristic different from a normal person. Physically they look like a normal person, we cannot compare physical condition of a psychopath and normal person but they are different in the ways of thinking, mind and psychological condition. Inside the world of psychopath, there are some characteristics that are always shown by main character, whenever, he is doing his actions. Psychopathic action appears in Charley as main character in the novel *Loves Music Loves to Dance* through his action and behavior, such as lack of empathy, irresponsibility, impulsive behavior, poor behavior control, compulsive lying and manipulative, so psychopath can be concluded as dispassionate and coldhearted person.

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