Bullying and Revenge toward The Main Character in Stephen King's Carrie

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Abstract

This research aims to determine the type of bullying experienced by the main character in Carrie's novel. This research uses a qualitative descriptive method that focuses on Erikson's theory. This data is taken from a novel titled Carrie with 183 pages. Other data are collected from various references such as books, journals, articles, thesis, and online sources. The objectives of this research are to determine the type of bullying experienced by the main character in the novel and to determine the effects of bullying experienced by the main character toward her personality development. The techniques of analyzing data in this research are method as following data collection, data condensation, data display, and finally making conclusions based on findings. The results showed that the main characters experienced four types of oppression, namely physical bullying, verbal bullying, relational bullying, and cyberbullying.

Key words: Bullying, personality, revenge.

Introduction

Literature is a window that leads us to know the world through language, people, culture, and traditions. The fact is the literature enriches the science competencies that are important in everyday life. The literature can be a tool to study the relationship created by the writers through their works. Novel is a story with the prose form in long shape which includes a complex plot, many characters, and various settings [1]. Novel is narrative textual content informing of prose with an extend form that consist of a few figures and fiction events. The intrinsic elements of novel are plot, setting characterization, point of view.

Psychology literature is a literary study that views the work as a psychological activity [2]. The writer will use creativity, sense, and creation in the work. Likewise readers, in responding to literary works also will not be separated from each other's psyche. In fact, like the sociology of reflection, the psychology of literature also recognizes literary works as a reflection of the soul. The writer will take the symptoms of the soul and then process them into the text and complete them with psychiatric. The projection of one's own experience and life experience around the author will be imagined projected into literary texts.

There are a lot of studies that use psychoanalysis approach and psychosocial development theory. Psychoanalysis is one of the most famous theories in literature. This theory was discovered by Sigmund Freud. In general, psychoanalysis is a cure for mental problems and life difficulties.

In nowadays, bullying that has occurred in every school has been exposed to a lot of electronic media from handphones or cameras that are published through the internet or social media such as Facebook, Instagram, etc. The most frequently circulating cases of bullying, especially for high school students, also happened a lot and the impact is very detrimental, both in the form of physical, emotional, and psychological effects of the victims of bullying. The writer is very interested in knowing how does bullying is against someone, especially for the main character in this novel, and analyzes bullying form that experienced the main in the Carrie novel. The characteristic of the main character surely is interesting to be seen from a psychosocial point of view. With the conflicts and issues that revolve around them, we can see the development of personality of the character.

Theoretical Reviews

There are a lot of studies that use the psychoanalysis approach and psychosocial development theory. It can be seen in The first previous study [3], revealed that Concerning the healthy balanced outcomes of Erikson's psychosocial development theory of Melinda as an individual, the writer finds Melinda's turning point event especially in stage Identity vs Role Confusion which is happened in her life. The psychosocial crisis that has to deal with is related to her social-emotional process involving changes in her emotional development. In Erikson's theory, the family relationship and social life play an important role in shaping and guiding each individual's self-development. Based on findings and discussion, it can be seen that Melinda's sense of identity develops well during this stage.

The second previous study [4] revealed that bullying has led to negative impacts on victims of bullying in the first place, child victims of bullying have an antisocial attitude towards the play environment, victims withdraw themselves from social environments and interact socially. Being indifferent to what is happening in the surrounding environment. Second, the impact on the psychology of the victim is a deep depression that starts a feeling of trauma experienced and then turns into depression.

The third previous study [5] focused on the formula of horror applied in the novel and also how repression from Freudian Psychology is shown through the main character. He used intrinsic and extrinsic elements to analyze the novel. The analysis of intrinsic elements is used to analyze the formula of horror in the novel, while the analysis of the extrinsic elements is used to apply the pattern of repression from Freudian Psychology. Carrie White is a character born from a religious fanatic mother who often abuses her. The events from the past hurt Carrie psychologically and result in Carrie turning into the monster figure of the story.

The result of this study shows that the traumatic events have forced Carrie to repress a memory and a certain urge to overcome the anxieties she lives with. The discussion in this study also shows that psychological issues play a big role in shaping the figure of a monster in a horror story. This study [5] has similarities in the selection of novel but has differences in the selection of theory, both of the research focus on the same character that is Carrie White, and also includes the traumatic events experienced by Carrie that affected Carrie's psyche but have differences theory, if this previous study using psychoanalysis theory of Sigmund Freud, then this study uses the psychosocial development theory by Erick Erikson.

Figure 1. Data Analysis

Methodology

In this research, the writer used the descriptive method by using the psychoanalysis approach. Qualitative research is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of words written or spoken of the people and observed behavior [6]. The writer used Erik H. Erikson's psychosocial theory in analyzing the data. The data used in this

research is novel as the main object of the research and the supporting data were a thesis, journal, article, and book that support the argument of the writer.

Findings and Discussion

In this research the writer found four forms of bullying experienced in Carrie Novel :

Table 1

No	Bullying Form In Came	Venue	Extract
1	Phsical Bullying	Home	"Momma brought her hand down on the back of Carrie's neck, and behind it was all the heavy muscle developed by eleven years of slinging heavy laundry bags and trucking piles of wet sheets. Carrie's eye-bulging face jerked forward and her forehead smacked the altar, leaving a mark and making the candles tremble". (King, 1974: 44)
		School	"A tampon suddenly struck her in the chest and fell with a plop at her feet. A red flower stained the absorbent cotton and spread. ...the girls were bombarding her with tampons and sanitary napkins, some from purses, some from the broken dispenser on the wall. They flew like snow and the chant became: "Plug it up, plug it up, plug it up, plug it." (King, 1974: 10)
2	Verbal Bullying	Home	"You spawn of the Devil," she whispered. "Why was I so cursed?" (King, 1974: 45)
		School	"Graffiti scratched on a desk of the barker street Grammar School in Chamberlain: "Carrie White eat shit." (King, 1974: 8)
3	Relational Bullying	Social Envi- ronment	"Scoobie Doo, where are you?" under his breath. He saw Carrie, brightened, and stuck out his tongue. "Hey, ol' fart-face! Ol' prayin' Carrie!" (King, 1974: 22)
		Home	"Momma had, of course, forbade her to shower with the other girls; Carrie had hidden her shower things in her school locker and had showered anyway, taking part in a naked ritual that was shameful and embarrassing to her in hopes that the circle around her might fade a little, just a little-(but today o today)" (King, 1974: 22)
		School	"Carrie stood among them stolidly, a frog among swans. She was a chunky girl with pimples on her neck and back and buttocks.... She looked the part of the sacrificial goat, the constant butt, believer in left-handed monkey wrenches, perpetual foul-up, and she was. She wished forlornly and constantly that Ewen High had individual-and thus private-showers, like the high schools at Westover or Lewiston. They stared. They always stared." (King, 1974: 8)
		Social Envi- ronment	"For a minute she just goggled as if she couldn't believe it. Then she opened her mouth and whooped.... It was like the noise a bull alligator would make in a swamp. She just whooped. Rage. Complete, insane rage. I thought Carrie was going to faint-or die on the spot. She sucked in all her breath and that little face went a cottage-cheesy color." Her mother yelled: 'CAAARRRIEEEEEE!' "I jumped up and yelled back: 'Don't you yell at her that way! You ought to be ashamed!' ..." (King, 1974: 27)
4	Cyber Bullying	Home	-
		School	"...The obscene postcard tucked into her purse; Carrie on the church picnic and kneeling down clumsily to pray and seam of her old madras skirt splitting along the zipper like the sound of a huge wind-breakage" (King, 1974: 11)
		Social Envi- ronment	"...even the time Chris Hergensen called up after school from the Kelly Fruit Company down-town and asked her if she knew that pig poop was spelled C-A-R-R-I-E" (King, 1974: 11)

Based on the analysis done by the writer, bullying has an important role in shaping someone's personality. For examples are being insecure about themselves, low sense of self-confidence, have depression, anxiety, feelings of loneliness and isolation, not being accepted by peers, be socially withdrawn and avoid conflict, have nightmares, in extreme cases, victims of bullying have a higher risk of suicide.

In the case of Carrie, the factor that most influences the formation of Carrie's personality are her mother. Since childhood, she did not get moral support and a correct upbringing from her mother, so she failed at the stage of determining her personality as mentioned by Erik Erikson. A mother should equip her child with sufficient knowledge about the biological condition of a girl and the state of the outside world, but what happens is the opposite Carrie's mother provides her children with prohibitions that are considered normal by others so her child grows up to be isolated and closed person deemed strange by her peers. Her mother provided Carrie with the knowledge that she believed that everyone would go to hell unless she and her daughter. That's made her mother often force Carrie to make penance in the prayer closet that she made and assume that the pain they were accepted is one way to make penance, it is also evidenced by a few quotes in the novel that show how often Carrie mother hurt herself when she thought Carrie sinned. This greatly affects the social environment of Carrie, especially in her school. She became a victim of bullying because she was considered strange by her peers and often got bad treatment and was mocked. The impact of this bullying is that she grows into a loner, inferior, and unable to interact with her peers.

In one moment, she felt dissatisfied with what she experienced in her life and wanted to make things change even though she was often told about by her mother and considered a sin. She tried several times to interact with her

peers or participate in activities at school, but she still could not be accepted in the school environment because her friends thought she was strange both in appearance and behavior. After being bullied and even sexually harassed in the bathroom when she got her first menstruation, this became the culmination of bullying that really made Carrie shake and slowly made hatred arise in her.

After realizing that she had a telekinetic power, she began to fight her mother who often opposed what she did and thought it was a sin. On the other hand, Carrie only hopes that if she mingles with her peers then she will not be considered strange and will not be mocked by her peers again. As a teenager who has reached puberty, of course, Carrie wants a good friendship environment like the other teenage girls. After trying to mingle, she even accepted Tommy's invitation to attend a prom night that she had never imagined before even though she had to face quite a big fight with her mother. After being determined to make changes and try to get out of the safe zone, she can be a very unpleasant thing. She got a trap set by Chris which made Carrie become a laughing stock at prom night, Carrie was humiliated by being framed by Chris to become king and queen on prom night then she and Tommy were flushed with two buckets full of pig blood, the worse things were being watched by everyone at her school. This moment is the culmination of hatred that arises and she buried in herself so that Carrie decided to take revenge for what she received so far by using all her telekinetic power to kill people on prom night.

Conclusion

After explaining and identifying the forms of bullying experienced by Carrie, the writer concludes related to how bullying create Carrie's personality:

- In this novel, Carrie gets four forms of bullying that have been identified by the writer. Among these are physical bullying, verbal bullying, relational bullying, and cyberbullying. In physical and verbal bullying there is also sexual harassment.
- Carrie's personality from childhood is formed by the intervention of her mother. Since childhood, she was pressured by her mother and grew into a girl who was isolated and had no friends. Her mother often forbade Carrie from doing what her mother considered sinful. Carrie even grew into a teenager who did not have a basic knowledge about female biology such as menstruation so she was very surprised to think "she was bleeding to death". That moment was the worst event that she had ever experienced while she was being mocked by her peers.
- Bullying has an important role in shaping someone's personality. The examples are being a low sense of self-confidence, having depression, anxiety, feelings of loneliness and isolation, not being accepted by peers, being socially withdrawn and avoiding conflict, having nightmares, in extreme cases victims of bullying have a higher risk of suicide. In this case, Carrie did not commit suicide but murdered a form of self-affirmation and revenge for what she had received so far.

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