



**THE MAIN CHARACTER'S PSYCHOPATHIC TRAITS
IN *GONE GIRL* BY GILLIAN FLYNN**

THESIS

**Submitted to fulfil a partial requirement for S-1 Degree
In the Department of English Faculty of Humanities
Bung Hatta University**

BY:

SYEFIRA SALSABILLAH

1210014211028

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
BUNG HATTA UNIVERSITY**

PADANG

2016



Skripsi berjudul

**THE MAIN CHARACTER'S PSYCHOPHATIC TRAITS IN *GONE GIRL*
BY GILLIAN FLYNN**

Yang dipersiapkan dan disusun oleh :

SYEFIRA SALSABILLAH

1210014211028

Telah dipertahankan di depan dewan penguji pada tanggal 1 bulan Juni tahun 2016 dan dinyatakan telah memenuhi syarat untuk diterima.

Disetujui oleh :

Pembimbing I

Dr. Elfiondri, S.S., M. Hum.

Pembimbing II

Femmy Dahlan, S.S., M.Hum.

Diketahui Oleh :

Dekan Fakultas Ilmu Budaya

Dr. Elfiondri, S.S., M. Hum.

Ketua Jurusan Sastra Inggris

Dra. Nova Rina, M. Hum



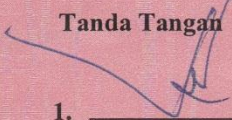


JURUSAN SASTRA INGGRIS
FAKULTAS ILMU BUDAYA UNIVERSITAS BUNG HATTA
PADANG
2016

Kami dengan ini menyatakan bahwa skripsi yang ditulis oleh :

SYEFIRA SALSABILLAH
1210014211028

Berjudul :

THE MAIN CHARACTER'S PSYCHOPHATIC TRAITS IN *GONE GIRL*
BY GILLIAN FLYNN

No.	Nama	Tim Penguji	Tanda Tangan
1.	Dr. Elfiondri, S.S., M. Hum.		1. 
2.	Femmy Dahlan, S.S., M. Hum.		2. 
3.	Dra. Mariati, M. Hum.		3. _____
4.	Vilia Yusraini, S.S., M. Pd.		4. 

Telah disetujui LULUS pada hari Rabu tanggal 1 Juni tahun 2016.

SURAT PERNYATAAN

Yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini :

Nama : Syefira Salsabillah

No. BP : 1210014211028

Jurusan : Sastra Inggris

Dengan ini menyatakan bahwa di dalam skripsi yang saya buat ini tidak terdapat karya yang pernah diajukan untuk memperoleh gelar kesarjanaan pada suatu perguruan tinggi manapun. Sepanjang pengetahuan saya, juga tidak terdapat karya atau pendapat yang pernah ditulis atau diterbitkan oleh orang lain, kecuali dikutip atau secara tertulis yang diacu dalam naskah ini dan disebutkan dalam daftar pustaka.

Apabila terdapat kesamaan dan bukti penjiplakan, sanksi berupa pembatasan skripsi dan gelar kesarjanaan saya oleh pihak Universitas Bung Hatta.

Padang, 1 Juni 2016



Syefira Salsabillah

THE MAIN CHARACTER'S PSYCHOPATHIC TRAITS IN *GONE GIRL* BY GILLIAN FLYNN

Syefira Salsabillah¹, Elfiondri¹, Femmy Dahlan¹

¹English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Bung Hatta University

E-mail : syefira20@gmail.com

Abstract

In this thesis the writer describes about the main character's traits that indicate "psychopathic" which are pictured in *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn, an author from America. This study has two purposes: (1) to describe about psychopathic traits of the main character (2) to describe about the causing factors of psychopathic trait of the main character. In analyzing this novel, the writer applies about the psychopathic trait from Robert Hare in *The Hare Psychopathy Checklist-Revised* (PCL-R), is a diagnostic tool used to rate a person's psychopathic or antisocial tendencies; there are 20-item of psychopathic trait itself. The writer also does a technique of close reading that requires her to read the whole novel in many times to understand the story of the novel. And the other technique is descriptive method to analyze the novel and to collect some data from available resources such as books and websites those related to this research based on topic and data. The novel shows that the main character just has six of psychopathic traits; they are glib and superficial charm, grandiose self-worth, pathological lying, callousness and lack empathy, poor behavior controls, and criminal versatility. The existence of the main character's psychopathic trait is because of her psychological individual factors and environment. Those aspects are the factors of the main character's psychopathic trait in her life.

Keywords: Main Character, Psychopathic Trait, the Hare Psychopathy Checklist-Revised

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful. Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Universe, who has created human as the intelligent creation in this world, so that they can be observer and thinker, and peace and blessings of Allah be upon the noblest of the Prophets and Messengers, Muhammad, his family, and those who follow him in the goodness till the day after.

In addition, it is very great pleasure for the writer to express the gratitude to the writer's lovely family for her inspiration to finish the study in university, they are; her parents—Syamsuwirman and Yelmis Mayartha—thanks so much to their support, love and pray, may Allah bless them. The writer also wants to sincerely deliver her great gratitude to her brothers (Rezki Fitra Ridhoni and M. Zikra Azizi) and her lovely sister (AzZahra Nabillah) who has been supporting her too. And for her lovely aunts (Yelnis M, Melini Ellin) who have been supporting her morally and financially for these recent semester.

The writer needs to express a great gratitude to her advisors Mr. Elfiondri and Mrs. Femmy Dahlan for their great help, patient, and contribution in finishing her thesis. For her examiners Mrs. Vilia and Mrs. Mariati, thanks for your suggestion, advice; to make her thesis can be better too. May Allah bless and give happiness for them and their family too.

Then, for the writer's friends in English Department'12, cacing (Riska Agustin), ited (Yayang Tedi Sobandi), tante (Nikita Florencia Z), jilndut (Jily Aggraini), Dulak (Tri Kafy Abdillah K), injung (Furqan Tanjung), inus (Marinus Raradodo Hia), mas (Dedi Suryanto), ubay (Bayu Fadrian), Tea (Alaitiya) and others that cannot she mentions here, they are like her big family. Thanks for your kind, your appreciated, your jokes, your loyalty, your friendship, love you all and she always remembers them. And specially for her kindly friend who has been fighting together until we finish our thesis now, always accompany everything

the condition that we face it, Icun (Mita Sundari), you are the best. And specifically for the one, who gives the writer support too, Rahmat Jordi Triawan ‘Civil Engineering’12, Bung Hatta University’, thanks for your benefit advice, your motivation and hopefully your thesis, your practical duty, your responsibility in BEM-F can be done quickly so you can focus on graduation next year. Fighting and keep focus.

Next, big thankful for the writer’s beloved junior, Ade Suci Indra, Rizki Almauli, Yonnie Kharisma D, Sari Oktavia, and all of juniors in English Department’13,14, thanks for being her friends and like her sibling too, love you. For all of the lecturers and staff in English Department and Faculty of Humanities for teaching and helping the writer during the time she studies, thanks for everything. I’ll never forget your meritorious service.

May Allah bless the writer and everyone who has great contribution in helping her completes this thesis. Last but not least, the writer realizes that this is not perfect, so the writer accepts any suggestion and criticism from this thesis.

Padang, June 2016

Syefira Salsabillah

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTi
ABSTRACTii
TABLE OF CONTENTSiii
CHAPTER I	INTRODUCTION
1.1	Reason for Choosing the Topic1
1.2	Objective and Scope of the Study3
1.3	Formulation of the Problem4
1.4	Theoretical Framework4
1.5	Method of the Research10
CHAPTER II	PSYCHOPATHIC TRAITS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER
2.1	Glib and Superficial Charm12
2.1.1	Tendency to be Charming 13
2.1.2	Shameless 15
2.2	Grandiose Self-Worth17
2.2.1	Believing She is Smart17
2.2.2	Believing She is Powerful19
2.3	Pathological Lying21
2.3.1	Crafty21
2.3.2	Cunning 23
2.3.3	Manipulative 26
2.3.3.1	Manipulative of Situation26
2.3.3.2	Manipulative of Pregnancy 28

	2.3.3.3 Manipulative of Diary	30
2.4	Callousness and Lack of Empathy	31
	2.4.1 Inconsiderate	31
	2.4.2 Insult	34
2.5	Poor Behavioral Controls	36
	2.5.1 Aggression	36
	2.5.2 Verbal Abuse	38
2.6	Criminal Versatility	40
	2.6.1 Defamation	40
	2.6.2 Torture	42
	2.6.3 Kill	44
CHAPTER III	THE CAUSING FACTORS OF PSYCHOPATHIC TRAIT	
	OF THE MAIN CHARACTER	
3.1	Psychological and Individual Factors	47
	3.1.1 Emotional	47
	3.1.2 Detached Personality	49
3.2	Environment	51
	3.2.1 Feelings of Inadequacy	51
	3.2.2 Anger	54
	3.2.3 Loneliness	57
	3.2.4 Economy	59
CHAPTER IV	CONCLUSION	62
CHAPTER V	BIBLIOGRAPHY	64

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Reason for Choosing the Topic

Amy Elliot is the main character in the novel. She was an ex-magazine quiz writer and she was best known as “Amazing Amy” who spends her life and activities in New York. In New York, everyone knows her about her parent’s accomplishments by printing their book until ten thousand copies. In the book, her parents tell about how Amy's life from childhood to the present becomes Amazing Amy. Before her marriage, she was very wealthy. She looks perfect in the eyes of everyone. But after her marriage, her life becomes change, because of the condition that cannot be accepted by her. She becomes frustration and pressure so that she does the action out of bounds. This led her has a psychopathic traits.

According to Robert Hare in *The Hare Psychopathy Checklist-Revised*, the characteristics of psychopathic are glib and superficial charm, grandiose self-worth, need for stimulation or proneness to boredom, pathological lying, conning and manipulative, lack of remorse or guilt, shallow affect, callousness and lack of empathy, parasitic lifestyle, poor behavioral controls, promiscuous sexual behavior, early behavior problems, lack of realistic, impulsivity, irresponsibility, failure to accept responsibility for own actions, and criminal versatility.

Psychopathic trait in the main character really dominates in this novel. This novel describes about how Amy often thinks without consciousness and never feels remorse and guilt for what she does despite harm of people. Because of she does it, she is so difficult to control of herself. There is no time for her to think about the good or bad what she is really

easy to attack someone just because of trivial problem. Then, it is barely found in novel entitles *Gone Girl*.

Gone Girl is a thriller novel by American Writer, Gillian Flynn. Crown Publishing Group published the novel in June 2012 and it soon made as “New York Times Best Seller”. *Gone Girl* is written by the woman that is really interested in exploring the psychology and dynamics of a long-term relationship. She made use her own experience as a writer that has been laid off too.

The main character, her name is Amy Elliot. She feels strange after she becomes wife. In the first years of marriage, second, and third is still running smoothly. But it all becomes change when entering their fifth wedding anniversary. They feel different and difficult each other. Nick Dunne is her husband who had lost jobs or layoffs so that it makes him become stress and frustration. Amy also quit her job to accompany her husband. That is what makes her life changed drastically and experienced depressed economy.

In another side, Nick tells about how characteristics of Amy that always think that she wants to be perfect every time. What she does and what she makes should be perfect. She is really like to make anything become her projects, such as list, clues, quiz and wedding gifts. She always feels that she is smart, have more powerful about anything and arrogant too. That is why Nick becomes depression too about his wife does. Then, Amy cannot accept the condition after Nick asks to move to Missouri, the place that is so far from center of city. Because they should for caring Nick’s mother that has seriously ill and there is no supply for living in New York City anymore. For Amy, it can change her life away from the word of “Amazing Amy” again.

According to the previous paragraph where the writer explains how Amy gets in her life by manipulating too. She manipulates all of the circumstances after she discovered her

husband was having a love with another woman. She cannot accept it. She had become poor, look older, and her life had changed when staying at home Nick's parents. She wants to take revenge by manipulating the loss of her and as if she is killed by her husband and makes everyone believes that Nick is a cheater and should goes to prison.

The characteristics of Amy Elliot that indicates psychopathic above, it refers to her instinctual desire and satisfaction when she experiences pleasure. If her need is not satisfied immediately the result is a state anxiety or tension. So that, Amy must make all plans smoothly by utilizing an ex-boyfriend as her project and suddenly kill without thinking of the risks it. She just wants to be seen that she is doing it to be a winner in the eyes of Nick.

Having a look at the phenomenon above, the writer can find the causing factors of Amy's behavior and how the way she makes everything become believe with her stories by manipulating and criminal for the other character, and there is no word of regret for her by doing it. The aggression, desire, and the factor of Amy Elliot proves that Amy being psychopathic and it is visible her condition after her marriage with Nick Dunne.

1.2 The Objective and Scope of the Study

The objective of this research is to describe the traits of the main character in *Gone Girl*. Particularly, the analysis will focus on the main character's characterization that indicates psychopathic traits. And then, the writer needs to know the causing factors of psychopathic trait of the main character.

The writer focuses her scope of the study on *Psychopathic Traits* that describes about the symptom of psychopathic. In this research, the writer focuses on the trait (symptom or tendencies) that dominates in this novel.

1. To describe about psychopathic traits of the main character
2. To describe about the causing factors of psychopathic trait of the main character.

1.3 Formulation of the Problem

According to the objective of the study, at least there are two research questions which can be used as follow-up action in digging up the data and carrying out the analysis, as follows:

1. How are the psychopathic traits of the main character?
2. How are the causing factors of psychopathic trait of the main character?

1.4 Theoretical Framework

In analyzing the data from the novel, the writer uses the psychoanalysis theory of Sigmund Freud. Sigmund Freud is the founding father of psychoanalysis and clearly a major figure in the history of psychology. So it is used by the writer to achieve a good analysis in appreciating the literary work. According to Sigmund Freud too, psychopathic is mental illness and psychopathic is a part of psychoanalysis. Freud understood the psychopath, but devoted little time and thought to investigate his mind. He wrote in 1928, “two traits are essential in a criminal: boundless egoism and a strong destructive urge. Common to both of these, and a necessary condition for their expression, is absence of love, lack of an emotional appreciation of (human) objects” (p. 178)

According to Robert Hare in *The Hare Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R)*, is a diagnostic tool used to rate a person’s psychopathic or antisocial tendencies. It is a 20-item inventory of perceived personality traits and recorded behaviors. The twenty traits assessed by the PCL-R score are:

1. GLIB AND SUPERFICIAL CHARM — the tendency to be smooth, engaging, charming, slick, and verbally facile. Psychopathic charm is not in the least shy, self-conscious, or afraid to say anything. A psychopath never gets tongue-tied. He can also be a great listener, to simulate empathy while zeroing in on his targets' dreams and vulnerabilities, to be able to manipulate them better.

2. GRANDIOSE SELF-WORTH — a grossly inflated view of one's abilities and self-worth, self-assured, opinionated, cocky, a braggart. Psychopaths are arrogant people who believe they are superior human beings. Psychopaths will often believe they are smarter or more powerful than they actually are.

3. NEED FOR STIMULATION or PRONENESS TO BOREDOM — an excessive need for novel, thrilling, and exciting stimulation; taking chances and doing things that are risky. Psychopaths often have a low self-discipline in carrying tasks through to completion because they get bored easily. They fail to work at the same job for any length of time, for example, or to finish tasks that they consider dull or routine.

4. PATHOLOGICAL LYING — can be moderate or high; in moderate form, they will be shrewd, crafty, cunning, sly, and clever; in extreme form, they will be deceptive, deceitful, underhanded, unscrupulous, manipulative and dishonest.

5. CONNING AND MANIPULATIVENESS: the use of deceit and deception to cheat, con, or defraud others for personal gain; distinguished from Item #4 in the degree to which exploitation and callous ruthlessness is present, as reflected in a lack of concern for the feelings and suffering of one's victims.

6. **LACK OF REMORSE OR GUILT:** a lack of feelings or concern for the losses, pain, and suffering of victims; a tendency to be unconcerned, dispassionate, coldhearted and un-empathic. This item is usually demonstrated by a disdain for one's victims.
7. **SHALLOW AFFECT:** emotional poverty or a limited range or depth of feelings; interpersonal coldness in spite of signs of open gregariousness and superficial warmth.
8. **CALLOUSNESS and LACK OF EMPATHY:** a lack of feelings toward people in general; cold, contemptuous, inconsiderate, and tactless.
9. **PARASITIC LIFESTYLE:** an intentional, manipulative, selfish, and exploitative financial dependence on others as reflected in a lack of motivation, low self-discipline and the inability to carry through one's responsibilities.
10. **POOR BEHAVIORAL CONTROLS:** expressions of irritability, annoyance, impatience, threats, aggression and verbal abuse; inadequate control of anger and temper; acting hastily.
11. **PROMISCUOUS SEXUAL BEHAVIOR:** a variety of brief, superficial relations, numerous affairs, and an indiscriminate selection of sexual partners; the maintenance of numerous, multiple relationships at the same time; a history of attempts to sexually coerce others into sexual activity (rape) or taking great pride at discussing sexual exploits and conquests.
12. **EARLY BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS:** a variety of behaviors prior to age 13, including lying, theft, cheating, vandalism, bullying, sexual activity, fire-setting, glue-sniffing, alcohol use and running away from home.
13. **LACK OF REALISTIC, LONG-TERM GOALS:** an inability or persistent failure to develop and execute long-term plans and goals; a nomadic existence, aimless, lacking direction in life.

14. **IMPULSIVITY:** the occurrence of behaviors that are unpremeditated and lack reflection or planning; inability to resist temptation, frustrations and momentary urges; a lack of deliberation without considering the consequences; foolhardy, rash, unpredictable, erratic and reckless.

15. **IRRESPONSIBILITY:** repeated failure to fulfill or honor obligations and commitments; such as not paying bills, defaulting on loans, performing sloppy work, being absent or late to work, failing to honor contractual agreements.

16. **FAILURE TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR OWN ACTIONS:** a failure to accept responsibility for one's actions reflected in low conscientiousness, an absence of dutifulness, antagonistic manipulation, denial of responsibility, and an effort to manipulate others through this denial.

17. **MANY SHORT-TERM RELATIONSHIPS:** a lack of commitment to a long-term relationship reflected in inconsistent, undependable, and unreliable commitments in life, including in marital and familial bonds.

18. **JUVENILE DELINQUENCY:** behavior problems between the ages of 13-18; mostly behaviors that are crimes or clearly involve aspects of antagonism, exploitation, aggression, manipulation, or a callous, ruthless tough-mindedness.

19. **REVOCAION OF CONDITION RELEASE:** a revocation of probation or other conditional release due to technical violations, such as carelessness, low deliberation or failing to appear.

20. **CRIMINAL VERSATILITY:** a diversity of types of criminal offenses, regardless if the person has been arrested or convicted for them; taking great pride at getting away with crimes or wrongdoings.

Criminal Offense - (criminal law): an act punishable by law; usually considered an evil act; “a long record of crimes”. (Farlex, The Free Dictionary):

Barratry, the synonym “Defamation”	The offense of vexatious persisting in inciting law suits and quarrels
Capital Offense, the synonym “Torture”	A crime so serious that capital punishment is considered appropriate
Felony, the synonym “Kill”	A serious crime (such as murder or arson)

Looking at Robert Hare’s Explanation, it can be a support to the writer in order to analyze and only focuses on glib and superficial charm, grandiose self-worth, pathological lying, callousness and lack empathy, poor behavior controls, and criminal versatility.

Psychopathy is a person suffering from chronic mental disorder with abnormal or violent social behavior (Oxford Dictionary, 2008). The cause factors are generally complex and vary depending on the particular disorder and the individual. Although the causes of some mental disorders are unknown, it has been found that different biological, psychological, and environmental factors can all contribute to the development or progression of mental disorder. (American Psychiatric Association, 2000. *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder-Rext Revised*. Washington, DC).

Biological factors consist of anything physical that can cause adverse effects on a person’s mental health. This includes genetics, exposure to toxins, brain defects or injuries, chemical imbalances, and substance abuse. (WebMD Home, Mental Health Center)

Psychological stressors, which can trigger mental illness, are as follows: emotional, physical or sexual abuse, loss of a significant loved one, neglect and being unable to relate to others. (WebMD Home, Mental Health Center)

The inability to relate to others is also known as emotional detachment. Emotional detachment makes it difficult for an individual to empathize with others or to share their own feelings. An emotionally detachment person may try to rationalize or apply logic to a situation to which there is no logical explanation. These individuals tend to stress the importance of their independence and may be a bit neurotic. (evolutioncounseling.com/detached-personality)

The term “environment” is very loosely defined when it comes to mental illness. Unlike biological and psychological causes, environmental causes are stressors that individual deal with in everyday life. These stressors range from financial issues to having low self-esteem. Environmental factors include death or divorce, dysfunctional home life, feelings of inadequacy, low self-esteem, anxiety, anger, or loneliness, changing jobs, poor relationship with others, substance abuse, not meeting social expectations, and poverty. (WebMD Home, Mental Health Center)

The risk factors in the previous paragraph, it turns an impact on a person becomes psychopathic. However, there are two factors are found by the writer in the thesis. There are psychological individual factors and environment.

The problems can actually be solved; it will not be acceptable if a person has been experiencing stress or frustration in his/her life too much. This is particularly true if a person is under a great deal of stress.

1.5 Method of the Research

In doing this research, the writer uses the psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud to analyze the characteristics of the main character. The writer applies the technique of collecting data by applying close reading of the novel based on *Psychoanalysis* approach. According to Jacobus (6), “Close reading requires that you take the text seriously enough to study it. The steps undertaken by the writer are firstly, the writer has to read and read it the novel not just once. Secondly, the writer searches for details that can otherwise go unobserved. Thirdly, the writer examines the text for words and term and refers to the dictionary to be sure of their meaning when necessary”. Based on Jacobus’s statement, the writer concludes that close reading technique can help her understand to collect the data in the novel by reading story of the novel in a few times. It is not enough to read just one times. Besides that, after the writer finished reading the story, the writer tries to use dictionary if there is unfamiliar word so that she can more easily to understand.

Then, the writer also uses descriptive method to analyze this novel. According to Stanley (1985:84), “Descriptive is describing some elements to the readers what something looks like”. It means that the writer collects some data from available resources such as books and websites those related to this research based on topic and data. The writer describes about the domination of the main character’s psychopathic as reflected in the novel *Gone Girl*.

The last, the writer applies the techniques of data analysis. In this case, the writer needs and follows some steps in the technique of data analysis. First, the writer reads the novel in several times. The function is to make understand the story. By reading the novel, the writer can find the main character’s characteristic that indicates psychopathic. Then, the writer analyzes the causing factors of psychopathic trait of the main character.

In the end of this research, the writer makes a conclusion of this research. The conclusion contains of all aspects that the writer makes in this research. The writer shows the evidences or proves of this research that refers to the main point of this research and analysis. In this conclusion, the writer depicts the main points of this research; the main points in this research are the characteristics and the causing factors of the main character's psychopathic trait.