

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Fifty Shades Trilogy consists of three novels: *Fifty Shades of Grey*, *Fifty Shades of Darker* and *Fifty Shades of Freed*. Those novels are written by E.L. James. E.L James was born in U.K on March, 7th 1963. Before she becomes a story writer, she worked as a television executive. According to a website biography.com, *Fifty Shades Trilogy* is a fan fiction of *Twilight Saga*. It is further informed that:

At that time, she began writing fan-fiction inspired by the *Twilight* vampire fiction series written by Stephenie Meyer. Using the pen name "Snowqueen's Icedragon," James wrote her own stories featuring the *Twilight* characters Bella Swan and Edward Cullen.

The popularity of *Fifty Shades Trilogy* in the internet makes a publisher, The Writer's Coffee Shop, interested to publish James' fan-fiction into a printed version. Those novels are successful and one of the novels, *Fifty Shades of Grey* is filmed into a movie which brings big profit to E.L. James. The rest of the series will also be made into a movie.

Fifty Shades Trilogy is an erotic romance trilogy. It is erotic novel because it tells about grey's sexual activity, which is sadomasochism practice. The romance is shown in the main character who is handsome, young and rich but mysterious. *Fifty Shades Trilogy* is an erotic romance trilogy. These novels tell about

Christian Grey who is handsome, young and rich but mysterious. The title of each novel: *Fifty Shades of Grey*, *Fifty Shades of Darker* and *Fifty Shades of Freed*, has implicit meaning which portrays Grey's life. The first title, *Fifty Shades of Grey*, the word "grey" seems to point to his own name but also points to the meaning of the color "grey" because the main character experiences he still has lots of secret that is unclear to others.

In the second title, *Fifty Shades of Darker*, the word "darker" points to a color which denotes the meaning of bleak or shadow. It seems that the writer wants to use the title of this novel to show that the past memories about Grey's childhood shadow that shades his adult life.

The third title is *Fifty Shades of Freed*. The word "freed" refers to his freedom from his dark, bleak or shadowing life of the past which is freed by Ana, his lover.

The second and the third are particularly interesting because the dark past of Grey was when he was in his early childhood. He had traumatic experiences such as lack of love which is influenced by later information that he is abandoned by his birth parent, had violence from the pimp and witnessed his birth mother's suicide.

After his birth mother committed suicide, Grey was rescued by Grace T. Grey. Later, Grey was adopted by Grace and her husband, Carrick Grey. With his new family, Grey experiences different situations. From poor messy family, he now lives in a rich perfect family. His new family provides everything he lacked in his old one. However, even when his physical needs is fulfilled and his

physical injury is cured, his mental injury cannot be easily cured. Those early childhood experiences affect Grey in the form of nightmares that come every night up to his adulthood.

The nightmares Grey experiences can be considered as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or PTSD. Edna B. Foa defines post traumatic stress disorder as “a serious psychological condition that occurs following exposure to a traumatic event. The symptoms that characterize PTSD are re-experiencing the traumatic events or frightening elements of it; avoiding thought, memories, people and places associated with event; emotional numbing; and elevated arousal”(2009, p. 1).As a result of post traumatic stress, Grey grew with some obstacles in his adolescence. Grey was unable to make friends although an adolescent should make friends and interact with them. Grey also avoids physical contact with other people including those who are close to him. His inability to interact with others made him rebel by fighting, drinking alcohol, and learning kinky sexual activity, sadomasochism, from his mother’s friend, Mrs. Robinson.

By practising sadomasochism, Grey can fulfil his sexual needs without having physical contact with the partner, an act that he avoids. Grey’s sadomasochism which is the result of his post traumatic stress disorder can be categorized as sexual disorder. American Psychiatric Association or APA (2013, p. 423) defines sexual dysfunctions (sexual disorder) as “A heterogeneous group of disorders that are typically characterized by a clinically significant disturbance in a person’s ability to respond sexually or to experience sexual pleasure.”

The writer realizes that the topic of this study is very sensitive because it discusses sexual disorder. However, the reason the writer chooses this topic is that the writer wants to delve further into Grey's background and reasons for having sexual disorder. In analyzing Grey's life including his development and his sexual disorder, the writer uses psychology approach, Erikson's theory of human psychosocial development (1977) to help analyze Grey's psychosocial development based on his experiences that happened in his life. Grey as a main character in these novels is interesting to analyze using Erikson's theory (1977), psychosocial development because the theory looks out over human psychosocial development in eight stages based on the significant relationship someone has in each stage.

Each stage in Erikson's theory shows whether the development of a person goes well or badly. The good or bad development experienced by a person depends on the positive or negative influence that happens on someone's life in each stage. For example, the first stage is basic trust versus mistrust that happen in someone's early life. When someone does not receive a positive outcome in this stage, someone will mistrust people around him.

In the trilogy, Grey is described as a perfect figure who has a perfect life. However, with all perfection in his life, Grey also has a weakness; he has a sexual disorder. As stated above, in his early childhood, Grey receives negative influence that led him into having a trauma. In Erickson's point of view, the trauma Grey experienced in his childhood results in negative psychosocial development. Until the time Grey meets Anna, Grey still undergoes negative psychosocial

development outcome such as mistrust, shame, doubt and guilt even though he has experienced positive influence in his life.

In this thesis, the writer will focus on only seven stages out of eight stages in Erikson's stage of psychosocial human development (1977). It is only seven because the last stage, eighth stage, is the stage when a person has already had everything in his life and only waits for his death. Therefore, the last stage, the eighth stage is impossible to analyze since Grey's story is ended before Grey reaches the stage.

The inability to present the eight stage of Grey's life is a point where the writer wants to share as a limitation of her study. The use of Erikson's theory which is development from real life person in some case can not be justified in analyzing a fiction, in this case *Fifty Shades Trilogy* because the writer only relies on the data provided from the story. Unlike real respondent who can be followed up when the writer needs more extra information, the analysis of the novel can not be treated as such.

In doing this study, the writer acknowledges a study which used Erickson's theory (1977) to analyze Grey. The study is done by Praswari and Retnowati (2015). The difference between the writer's study and Praswari and Retnowati's study (2015) are in the number of novels used, the number of Erickson's psychosocial human development stages (1977) used to analyze the novels, the focus of analysis, and the use of Freud's theory by Praswari and Retnowati (2015). The first difference is that Praswari and Retnowati only analyzed two novels in the trilogy, they are *Fifty Shades of Grey* and *Fifty Shades of Darker*,

while the writer uses all novels in the trilogy. The second difference is that Praswari and Retnowati (2015) only used five stages of Erickson's stages of psychosocial human development (1977), while the writer used seven stages of Erickson. The third difference is Praswari and Retnowati (2015) which focus on Grey's sexual activity especially on Grey's sadomasochism practices, while the writer focuses on trauma experiences by Grey which result in Grey's sexual disorder. The last difference is that Praswari and Retnowati (2015) also used Freud's theory apart from Erickson, while the writer only uses Erickson's.

To put the above discussion in a simple way, the writer analyzes trilogy novel of *Fifty Shades* with seven stages of psychosocial human development of Erickson (1977) and focus on how a trauma happening in Grey's childhood leaves trace on him and makes him suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

1.2 FIELD OF THE STUDY

The field of this study is literature especially on psychosocial development of the character, Christian Grey.

1.3 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of this study is E.L. James's novels entitled *Fifty Shades Trilogy* with the seven stages of Erik H. Erikson's Psychosocial Development.

1.4 PROBLEM FORMULATION

The problem formulations of this study are:

1. How is Christian Grey's psychosocial development?
2. What are the traumatic experiences happened to Christian Grey in his childhood which affect Grey's psychosocial development?
3. What are the symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder experienced by Grey which affect Grey's psychosocial development both in his adolescence and adulthood?

1.5 OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

The objectives of this study are:

1. To discover Christian Grey's psychosocial development in Christian Grey's life development.
2. To elaborate the traumatic experiences happened to Christian Grey in his childhood which affects Grey's psychosocial development.
3. To find out the symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder experienced by Grey which affect Grey's psychosocial development both in his adolescence and adulthood.

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

This study is expected to give contribution to the analysis of a character in a novel which discusses traumatic experiences and post traumatic stress disorder. The writer also hopes this study will help the readers to understand how traumatic

experience and post traumatic stress disorder happened to the character give impact on the character's sexual activities.

1.7 DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. Psychosocial Human Development

The Psychosocial development is stages of human development in which social interaction gives important influences.

2. Trauma

“Unusual events involving loss to the individual – whether a death, the loss of body part or functioning, the loss of the job, the loss of one's home, or the loss of one's trust in others in the safety of the world.” (Janoff-Bulman, 1992)

3. Sadomasochism (SM)

According to Urban dictionary (TheArgonaut, 2006), the definition of sadomasochism is:

“A combination of the words sadism, meaning to take pleasure in inflicting pain on others, and masochism, to take pleasure in pain inflicted on you. Together, the term sado-masochism refers to a wide spectrum of kinky sex relating to pain.”