

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Netflix Series *YOU* is a psychological thriller television series with the main character Joe Goldberg and his possessiveness towards his girlfriend, Guinevere Beck. These series tell about Joe Goldberg, a bookstore manager, who is in love with Guinevere Beck. Joe grew up in a broken family. His father often abused him and his mother. This is what affects his attitude as an adult in his relationship. These series portray Joe as a possessive man. Since Joe met Beck in the bookstore, he started to stalk her, both physically by following her house and virtually by following her on social media. His possessiveness lead him to commit violence and even murdered people around Beck whom he thinks as an obstacle for him to get close to Beck like her best friend, Peach Salinger, and also Beck's boyfriend, Benji. He does that because of jealousy and that is what makes him considered as psychopath as well.

Possessive thinking could happen to every person especially in a relationship. Possessive people view other people as possessions. They feel that they can do whatever they want to people who belong to them. This is viewing of people as possessions that they can do anything they want with to satisfy them. Disturbed characters also have a tendency to regard others as objects rather than people with dignity, value, rights, and wants (objectification). Ownership, entitlement, and dehumanization are all outcomes of this way of thinking (Simon, 2016). A person

who is possessive does not realize that what he or she did was right or wrong. Therefore, in my thesis I want to analyze Joe's possessive behavior and his abusive actions. In doing the analysis, I will use Lenore Walker's theory on possessiveness. Walker explained that "Possessive male are jealous of everyone in the woman's life, including family, friends, and even pets" (Follingstad, Rutledge, Berg, Hause, & Polek, 1990, p. 109). Men with possessive behavior consider their partners to be their property and make decisions for them without considering what they want which can lead to psychological abuse. She also mentions that jealousy, stalking behavior and childhood background could be the factors of possessiveness.

In an article of Priestbudi and Sulistyorini (2015) analyze the possessive behavior of Mrs. Lisbon as a mother towards her daughters. The objects of their research are to analyze the character, conflict and setting. In their article, they use George Simon's theory, possessive thinking, as a character disturbance. The results of their study show that the main character, Mrs. Lisbon, is a mother who is firm, worried, insensitive, conservative, and protective. She also experiences both internal and external conflicts.

While Priestbudi and Sulistyorini (2015) explain more about the setting, character and conflict of Mrs. Lisbon towards her daughter in 'The Virgin Suicide', I would like to analyze the main character, Joe Goldberg in Netflix series *YOU*. Joe Goldberg, a psychopath that has possessive and abusive behaviors towards his girlfriend, Guinevere Beck. The main character, Joe Goldberg, will be analyzed using Walker's theory about abusers' characteristics of possessive behavior.

1.2 Field of the Study

The study is related to the field of Literature focusing on character disturbance.

1.3 Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is the possessive behaviour that Joe has in series movie *YOU* toward his girlfriend.

1.4 Research Questions

The research questions are

1. What are the characteristics of possessive behavior exhibited by Joe Goldberg in the Netflix series *YOU* ?
2. What are the abusive behaviors that Joe Goldberg commit?

1.5 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are

1. To describe the characteristics of possessive behavior exhibited by Joe Goldberg in Netflix series *YOU*.
2. To describe abusive behaviors commit by Joe Goldbberg.

1.6 Significance of the Study

In this study, the writer expects the readers to easily understood the findings of how possessive and abusive behavior in the reality of relationship happens through the series *YOU*. In a relationship, possessive behavior such as jealousy, envy, obsession, and stalking are still common. Therefore, abusive behavior can also happens as a

consequence of possessiveness. Many people experience violence in their relationship, either they abused physically or verbally.

1.7 Definition of Term

1. Possessive

According to Peele and Brodsky (1976) Possessiveness refers to a constellation of attitudes, feelings, and behaviors that seek to initiate and maintain control over the actions of another person in a relationship (Pinto & Hollandsworth, 1984).

