

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

People who exist in this world definitely have unique personalities which different among other. Every person's unique personality might have an influence on that person's range. Theory and research have highlighted the influence of life events on regrets and bullying, with bullying in particular having a significant impact on the equality of friendship. It is clear that bullying may make many children completely oblivious to the world around them, while students who get away with bullying others are adopting values that are incompatible with any acceptable preparation for citizenship. According to Darney (2013), Bullying is a bad behavior since it involves different types of people. They are more powerful individuals who also victimize and observe others.

Defining the term bullying can be challenging as the author's view on the subject appears to differ greatly. Bullying may occur to anybody at any age and any place, including at school, with family, and even a job (Darmawan, 2010). Bullying occurs when children are subjected, frequently and over time, to unpleasant actions on the part of one or more other people (Darney et al., 2013). The relationship is marked by a power disparity between the bully and the victim due to the victim's strength, age, or status. According to Swart and Bredekamp (2009), bullying is a

collective phenomenon in which children take on a variety of roles such as bully-victim, aggressor, victim, observer, and defender.

Bullying incidents have increased recently, especially at school (Gendron et al., 2011), a place where students come from different classes gathered in one place for a long time from morning to evening. Accordingly, schools provide an optimal context for bullying because the same children are involved in social relationships on a daily basis over an extended time. When the school condition cannot be controlled such as teachers, faculty, administration, and other students, bullying will happen (Gendron et al., 2011). This should also apply to how students view their schools. For example, they may be less likely to follow the regulations if they believe that their schools are unwelcoming, unfair, and unsupportive. They purposefully cause others' suffering and pain, primarily by using physical force (Nansel et al., 2001). Bullying does not only occur at school but also occurs in the family. The victim's family may have experienced stressful events like parental divorce or immigration. According to Sullivan (2000, as cited in (Darney, 2009), it is rather simple to understand how such life circumstances can cause a child to become depressed and reclusive, or angry and hostile, and therefore vulnerable to being victimized. There are four types of bullying based on Darney (2013). They are physical bullying, verbal bullying, social bullying, and cyberbullying. Research indicates that the harm inflicted by bullying, whether physical or psychological, has many implications and can result in a snowball effect of lasting painful emotions and negative impacts (Blazer, 2005).

Recently, various bullying incidents have been portrayed in the film, particularly those involving young teenagers who bully others physically with the intention of inflicting pain and damage on them. Bullying is depicted in the series *My Nerd Girl* (Agus, 2022) produced by Screenplay Film and Wattpad Studios. It tells about a twin in a Senior High School named Fara and Rea. When the twins were small, Fara and Rea separated because their father and mother frequently quarreled over the fact that Fara received more attention from their mother. While the twin's father moved out of the house and took Rea to Surabaya, Fara continues to live with her mother in Jakarta. Her mother has depression, she always compares Fara to Rea, the twin sister. Her mother's desire to make Fara the most perfect daughter results in Fara being suffered.

Fara and Rea have two different personalities. Fara is a sweet, kind, and innocent adolescent. Unfortunately, Fara is constantly bullied by a popular female group of three members: Amelia, Shirley, and Kella because of her nerd personality. She is always mocked, humiliated, and beaten. As a result, she feels increasingly insecure and not confident in herself. Moreover, she is jealous of Rea who is perfect, beautiful, and popular. She always compares herself to Rea who is much better. In general, Fara suffers a great deal, and as a result, she ultimately killed herself by jumping off a high building.

Being a newly produced series, the researcher found that the series *My Nerd Girl* has not been used as data by any researcher yet, however, the researcher found

several other studies that analyzed bullying in the film and are obviously different from the previous research in “Type, Cause, and Effect of Bullying in a *Girl Like Her*” (Nurmalia et al., 2021). In Nurmalia’s paper, she talks about the bullying case that happened to a character named Jessica Burns. The types of bullying shown in the film based on Nurmalia’s analysis are 52.4% verbal bullying, 19% physical bullying, 14.3% cyberbullying, and 14.3% relationship bullying. Verbal bullying is shown when Jessica Burn gets negative words from a bully named Avery Keller. The physical bullying faced by Jessica is tripping, pushing, throwing a cracker, and pouring water. The cyberbullying happened when Jessica gets a lot of negative comments on her social media. The last, in relationship bullying, the bully defames Jessica’s reputation. As a consequence, Jessica suffers from an emotional disorder, stress, and behavioral disorder. In Rahmawati’s study (2009), she analyzed *Mean Girls*. Rahmawati discusses the girl bullying problem in American High Schools. She shows two types of bullying that happened in *Mean Girls*, verbal bullying and social relation bullying. Verbal bullying includes intimidating phone calls, spreading rumors, and manipulating relationships. Bullying occurs in peers of adolescent girls called clique. Rahmawati used three different groups of students classified by Olweus: the bullies, the victims, and the bystanders. Different from Nurmalia’s and Rahmawati’s studies, the researcher analyzes the types and effects of bullying represented in *My Nerd Girl*.

## **1.2 Field of the Study**

The field of this study is literature, especially on Web Series

## **1.3 Scope of the Study**

This study focuses on the types and effects of bullying represented in *My Nerd Girl*.

## **1.4 Research Questions**

The research questions are

1. What are the types of bullying represented in *My Nerd Girl*?
2. What are the effects of bullying on the main character of *My Nerd Girl*?

## **1.5 Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are

1. To identify the types of bullying represented in *My Nerd Girl*.
2. To find out the bullying effects on the main character of *My Nerd Girl*.

## **1.6 Significance of the Study**

After performing this study, the researcher expects that the findings will influence others, particularly the researchers to study and write about bullying. Thus, they can make people realize that bullying has negative impacts on the victim, especially the teens at school.

## **1.7 Definition of Term**

1. Bullying

Bullying is not always random and it may be caused by assumptions that the targets are in a lower position due to their perceived perceptions or stigmatized characteristic (Bradshaw & Johnson, 2011); Earnshaw et al., 2018). Violence such as bullying has a negative emotional impact on a variety of painful feelings, such as disappointment, depression, and fear, and, depending on the situation, criminal consequences may result (Rezapour et al., 2022).

