

## **CHAPTER V**

### **CONCLUSION**

#### **5.1 Conclusion**

Based on the analysis of *Dahmer – Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story*, the research concludes that the series portrays Jeffrey Dahmer's psychopathy through both symptoms and causes that align with Hare's theory of psychopathy.

First, concerning the symptoms of psychopathy, the analysis found two main categories: emotional and interpersonal traits, and social deviance (lifestyle). In terms of emotional and interpersonal traits, Dahmer displays eight findings: glibness, superficial charm, egocentrism, grandiosity, deceitfulness, manipulation, shallow emotions, lack of empathy, and lack of remorse or guilt. These traits consistently appear in his interactions with family, peers, victims, and authority figures.

Next, in the category of social deviance or lifestyle, the series portrays six findings: impulsivity, poor behavioral controls, constant need for excitement, irresponsibility, early behavioral problems, and adult antisocial behavior. These symptoms illustrate Dahmer's inability to form genuine emotional bonds and his tendency to exploit others for personal gratification.

Second, concerning the causes of psychopathy, the series emphasizes nurture factors. The analysis found four major causes that shaped Dahmer's psychological condition: (1) an unstable family environment marked by constant conflict, (2) emotional neglect and abandonment by his mother, (3) prolonged isolation and lack of supervision during adolescence, and (4) traumatic experiences such as discovering his mother's overdose, rejection, and bullying. These conditions nurtured his sense of alienation and emotional

detachment. Combined with his father's permissiveness toward disturbing behaviors, these factors contributed to the escalation of Dahmer's psychopathic tendencies.

In conclusion, the series not only dramatizes Dahmer's life but also provides a psychological exploration of psychopathy. It demonstrates how a combination of personality traits and adverse environmental conditions can result in destructive behaviors that align with the clinical profile of a psychopath.

## **5.2 Suggestion**

This research is expected to contribute to the study of psychology in literature, particularly in understanding the portrayal of psychopathy in film and television. Future researchers may expand this study by analyzing different aspects of Dahmer's character, such as his comorbid psychological disorders, or by comparing him with other fictional or real-life portrayals of psychopathic figures. Such studies could enrich discussions on how media representations influence public perceptions of mental illness and crime.

For English literature students, this study highlights the importance of applying psychological theories in literary analysis, as it provides deeper insights into character construction and narrative representation. Additionally, for readers and viewers, this research encourages a more critical perspective when engaging with true crime adaptations, recognizing the ethical and psychological implications behind such portrayals.

Finally, the writer suggests that future studies consider interdisciplinary approaches by combining psychology, sociology, and media studies. This would allow for a broader understanding of how complex characters like Jeffrey Dahmer are constructed, perceived, and contextualized within cultural narratives.

## WORKS CITED

- Bogdan, Robert, and Sari Knopp Biklen. *Qualitative Research for Education; An Introduction to Theory and Methods*. 5th ed., Allyn & Bacon, 2007.
- Buzina, Nadica. "Psychopathy–Historical Controversies and New Diagnostic Approach." *Psychiatria Danubina*, vol. 24, no. 2., 2012, pp. 134–42.
- Hare, Robert D. *Without Conscience: The Disturbing World of the Psychopaths among Us*. Guilford Press, 1999.
- Hintjens, Pieter. *The Psychopath Code: Cracking the Predators That Stalk Us*. GitBook, 2016.
- Meiliana, Sylvie. *Psychology of Literature*. 2020.
- Murphy, Ryan, et al. *Dahmer – Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story*. Netflix, 2022.
- Pickering, James H., and Jeffrey D. Hooper. *Concise Companion to Literature*. Macmillan, 1981.
- Santos, Rosemary Conceição dos, et al. "Psychology of Literature and Literature in Psychology." *Trends in Psychology*, vol. 26, 2018, pp. 767–94.
- Smit, Brigitte, and Anthony J. Onwuegbuzie. "Observations in Qualitative Inquiry: When What You See Is Not What You See." *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, vol. 17, no. 1, SAGE Publications Sage CA: Los Angeles, CA, 2018, p. 1609406918816766.
- Verstappen, M. R. Stefan H. *Defense against the Psychopath: A Brief Introduction to Human Predators*. Lulu. com, 2011.
- Zhang, Yan, and Barbara M. Wildemuth. "Qualitative Analysis of Content." *Applications of Social Research Methods to Questions in Information and Library Science*, vol. 308, no. 319, 2009, pp. 1–12.