

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

This chapter consists of the thesis' conclusion and suggestion. The conclusion provides an analysis of the findings presented in the first chapter, and the suggestion includes the writer's recommendation for the reader who wishes to pursue the same subject further in the future.

5.1 Conclusion

In this study, the writer conducted a study on Joe Goldberg. The study's findings show that the writer discovered Joe's borderline personality disorder as portray in *You* series. The writer found 29 data of borderline personality disorder.

There are 6 types of symptoms with 22 data Joe experienced, such as 3 frantic efforts to avoid real or imagined abandonment, 5 unstable and intense interpersonal relationships, 2 identity disturbance, 5 impulsivity, 3 chronic feeling of emptiness, 4 transient stress-related paranoid ideation or severe dissociative symptoms. There are 7 data of environmental factor. There are 3 types of environmental factors with data 3 emotional neglect, 2 neglect and 2 physical abuses. In the first finding, there is two dominant symptoms namely unstable relationship and impulsivity. The reason why this symptom of unstable and intense relationship is dominant it happens when Joe's relationships tend to swing between extreme idealization and sudden devaluation. He quickly becomes obsessed with someone, builds an unrealistic image of them, and then

turns against them when they no longer fit his ideal, often leading to conflict. This unstable pattern is at the core of his relationship with Beck. Impulsivity become dominant symptom because it appears consistently across different situations and strongly drive Joe's behavior throughout the series. Joe frequently acts on impulse, making drastic decisions without fully thinking through the consequences. Such as committing sudden acts of violence, and engaging in risky sexual behavior. These impulsive acts are often emotional reactions to perceived threats or rejection. Transient stress-related paranoid ideation or severe dissociative symptoms is the second dominant symptoms because when Joe under intense stress, especially when he feels exposed, he starts to think people are watching and targeting him, even without real evidence. In extreme moments, he disconnects from reality, sees things that aren't there, or convinces himself that something isn't real to avoid facing guilt. Frantic efforts to avoid real or imagined abandonment and chronic feelings of emptiness are the third dominant symptoms that happen because Joe is deeply afraid of being alone because he experienced being abandoned by his mother, and feels incomplete without someone to connect to. When he senses someone might leave him, he reacts desperately to stop it, even in extreme ways. Joe feels constant emptiness drives him to seek intense relationships or obsess over someone, hoping they will fill the void inside him. The final symptom is identity disturbance. Joe doesn't have a stable sense of who he is. He acts like a "chameleon," shifting his personality to match what they think others want. He changes how he sees himself depending on who he is with. Joe's core identity remains unstable, and

his efforts to redefine himself are undermined by the same obsessive tendencies he claims to reject. This unstable identity makes him vulnerable to emotional swings and influences how he interprets situations.

In the second finding, there is one dominant environmental factor experienced by Joe, namely emotional neglect. The reason why emotional neglect is dominant because he grew up without steady love and care, which made him feel unwanted and unsafe. The emotional neglect left him with an empty feeling inside, and the lack of genuine affection in his early years, leading him to obsessively pursue love as a way to fill the emptiness. Neglect and physical abuse are the second dominant factor. Physical abuse, like being burned by a cigarette and locked in a glass cage by Mr. Mooney, taught him that people could quickly turn hurtful. These experiences made it hard for him to have healthy, stable relationships, causing him to hold on too tightly to people and react badly when felt rejected. Without having positive role models or a stable support system, Joe struggles with identity disturbance, often changing his persona to fit the expectations of those around him. Overall, the emotional neglect and physical abuse and neglect shaped the unstable relationships, impulsive actions, identity disturbance, and chronic feeling of emptiness that drive his behavior in the series.

In conclusion, this study shows that Joe Goldberg's borderline personality disorder in the *You* series comes from his childhood environmental factors. His childhood was marked by emotional neglect, neglect and physical abuse. Emotional neglect he experienced was associated with symptoms of unstable

and intense relationships, identity disturbance, and chronic feelings of emptiness. Joe grew up in a home where his emotional needs were ignored and where he often witnessed conflict. Joe never learned what a secure, supportive relationship looks like. As a result, in adulthood, he tends to swing between extreme idealization and sudden devaluation in his relationships, desperately clinging to people for love. Without consistent care or guidance, Joe grew up unsure of who he was or how he should see himself. Since his parents failed to provide him with stability, he became like a “chameleon,” often changing his personality to fit what others wanted, which made it difficult for him to maintain a stable and authentic sense of self. Joe’s chronic feelings of emptiness also come from emotional neglect. As a child, he was left emotionally unsupported and lacking comfort. This emptiness carries into his adult life, where he tries to fill the gap by becoming obsessed with others, hoping relationships will give him the wholeness he lacked growing up.

Neglect in supervision that Joe experienced during his childhood related to symptoms of frantic effort to avoid real and imagined abandonment because Joe was not consistently looked after and often left to deal with chaos on his own. He developed an intense fear of being left behind. As an adult, this fear result into desperate behavior like stalking or controlling his partners, in an attempt to stop them from leaving him.

Physical abuse Joe experienced as a child is also related to symptoms of BPD, such as impulsivity and transient stress-related to paranoid ideation or dissociative symptoms. The abuse taught him that violence and control were

part of relationships, so as an adult he often reacts with sudden, harmful actions without thinking, like killing in the heat of the moment. It also left him fearful, which shows in his paranoia and hallucinations when under pressure.

5.2 Suggestion

Based on the findings of this study, the writer expects that by reading this thesis, the reader will be able to understand how past experience influences a character's actions. The writer suggested that future research on borderline personality disorder in fictional characters should explore more how genetic and environmental factors shape each of the symptoms. Even though the research in this thesis is not perfect and any gaps can be filled by other researchers. The writer expects that anyone who is interested in learning more about related subjects will find this study useful.

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