

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Regardless of any generation, abusive behaviour is considered harmful in society, especially among people's intimate relationships. Abusive behaviour is known as the act of harming those who have an intimate relationship with the perpetrator. The perpetrator intentionally exploits victims by using the value which victims place in the relationship to assert control over them. An intimate relationship is a basic need of human life, providing a source of support, affection, and companionship. When such a relationship is damaged by abusive behaviour, such as mocking, gaslighting, or slapping, it can cause significant physical or psychological harm to individuals. Furthermore, abusive behaviour usually does not stop within one attempt. It is a gradual pattern of affection turning to abuse, which requires an enormous struggle to break free.

In particular, abusive behaviour in the context of marriage is often carried out by men, especially husbands. Their abusive tendencies are typically rooted in a mindset that views men who provide for their partners as the dominant figures in the relationship. With this mindset, abusive husbands permit themselves to inflict harm both physically and psychologically on their victims. Unfortunately, when abuse manifests in a psychological form that does not cause visible injuries, many victims remain unaware of it.

This research specifically discusses abusive behaviour as a main topic because it seems that there are still victims who do not realize that their husbands

are perpetrators. Victims do not recognize the patterns of abusive behaviour because they are trapped in the assumption that conflict and control are part of marriage. Therefore, it is crucial to raise public awareness about the patterns of abusive behaviour, especially those that happen in marital relationships.

Abusive behaviour occurs far too frequently in real life, prompting many literary works to address this issue. One American novel that highlights abusive behaviour in marriage is the novel *A Dowry of Blood* by S.T. Gibson, which was published in 2021. The novel tells about Dracula's love for his three consorts, Constanta, Magdalena, and Alexi, which becomes a danger for them through the point of view of his first wife, Constanta. At the beginning of the story, his first wife mentions Dracula as her saviour because he saves her from raiders. He also treats her with tender care and affection after he claims her as his wife. However, as time passes, Dracula becomes increasingly jealous and does not hesitate to show his aggressiveness as a means to assert control over her because of his past where his former consorts betrayed him. As the story unfolds, Dracula is not only aggressive towards Constanta, but he also displays a similar affection-turns-abuse pattern towards Magdalena and Alexi, which escalates to life-threatening situations.

In this research, the writer uses the novel *A Dowry of Blood* by S.T. Gibson to highlight the pattern of abusive behaviour, such as its characteristics, types, and phases. The writer chose this novel because it depicts abusive behaviour in a marital relationship, which may happen to anyone, particularly vampires who are supposed to be stronger than the mortals. Moreover, many forms of abuse can be studied from Dracula's interactions with his consorts. Therefore, studying Dracula's actions

toward his consorts may reveal more examples of abusive behaviour in a marital relationship, especially in a work of fiction. The writer believes that Dracula is indeed a perpetrator who exhibits the pattern of abusive behaviour which evolves from affection to abuse, ultimately damaging the physical and psychological well-being of his three consorts, Constanta, Magdalena, and Alexi.

1.2 Research Questions

Regarding the background of the research, the writer arranges three research questions as follows:

1. What are Dracula's characteristics as the abusive behaviour perpetrator in S.T. Gibson's *A Dowry of Blood*?
2. What are Dracula's types of abusive behaviour in S.T. Gibson's *A Dowry of Blood*?
3. How are Dracula's phases of abusive behaviour throughout his intimate relationship in S.T. Gibson's *A Dowry of Blood*?

1.3 Purpose of the Research

Regarding the research questions above, the writer arranges three purposes of the research as follows:

1. To describe Dracula's characteristics as the abusive behaviour perpetrator in S.T. Gibson's *A Dowry of Blood*.
2. To identify Dracula's types of abusive behaviour in S.T. Gibson's *A Dowry of Blood*.
3. To analyze Dracula's phases of abusive behaviour throughout his intimate relationship in S.T. Gibson's *A Dowry of Blood*.

1.4 Scope of the Research

To avoid undirected and lengthy discussions, the writer limits this research to the following matters. This research focuses on the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the novel *A Dowry of Blood* by S.T. Gibson. The intrinsic elements include character, characterization, setting, and conflict. The extrinsic elements include the characteristics of an abusive behaviour perpetrator and the types and phases of abusive behaviour. The discussion only revolves around the abusive behaviour done by Dracula. The writer will specifically analyze Dracula's psyche, especially his behaviour towards his consorts and how he transforms from being a good partner to a terrible one.

1.5 Previous Research

Several researchers have examined different aspects of the same object, the novel *A Dowry of Blood*. These examinations have provided various interpretations, but gaps and unresolved inquiries still call for additional exploration. This current research intends to thoroughly investigate the abusive behaviour depicted in the novel, which has not yet been discussed in previous researches. In the section below, the writer will mention some previous researches related to the same novel.

The first previous research is conducted by Anna Marie Hanušová, entitled “The Cursed Daughters: A Comparative Study of Women’s Representation in Vampire Literature.” The researcher compares the characters of Constanta and Magdalena to other female characters in novels which share the same theme of vampires.

The second previous research is conducted by Sydney Maria, entitled “Ambivalence in Vampire Fiction: Attraction, Female Sexuality, Abusive Relationships & The Gilded Elite.” The researcher compares the ambivalence and humanity of vampires which occur in *A Dowry of Blood* with other novels.

The third previous research is conducted by Miranda Sanders, entitled “Screaming in Silence: Exploring Gender Empowerment & Representation in Contemporary Horror Narratives.” The researcher compares patriarchal control and violence which occur in *A Dowry of Blood* with other horror genre novels through a feminist examination.

The fourth previous research is an essay, entitled “Ghosts of Gothic's Past in the Present: The Haunting of Bly Manor and New Approaches to Adaptation and Representation for Young Adult Audiences” by Michelle Drake. The researcher mentions Constanta because she is considered a representation of a queer protagonist in young adult gothic novel.

The previous researches do not delve specifically into the abusive behaviour done by Dracula towards Constanta, Magdalena, and Alexi. Therefore, a research gap exists in the analysis of Dracula's characteristics of an abusive behaviour perpetrator and the types and phases of abusive behaviour, which become the primary focus of this final research.

1.6 Organization of the Writing

This thesis is systematically arranged into four chapters:

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of the background of the research, research questions, purpose of the research, scope of the research, previous research, and organization of the research.

CHAPTER II: THEORY AND METHOD

This chapter mentions the theoretical framework and research method which will be used in the analysis. The theoretical framework consists of intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements. The intrinsic elements are character, characterization, setting, and conflict, while the extrinsic elements are the characteristics of an abusive behaviour perpetrator and the types and phases of abusive behaviour. The research method uses psychological approach, library research, contextual analysis, and close reading technique.

CHAPTER III: ANALYSIS

This chapter contains the analysis of the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the novel *A Dowry of Blood* by S.T. Gibson. The intrinsic elements analysis consists of three descriptions: Dracula's character and characterization, setting, and Dracula's conflicts. The extrinsic elements analysis consists of three descriptions: Dracula's characteristics as the abusive behaviour perpetrator and Dracula's types and phases of abusive behaviour.

CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSION

This chapter summarizes the analysis from the previous chapter.