

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

S.T. Gibson's novel *A Dowry of Blood* (2021) depicts the patterns of abusive behaviour through the relationship between Dracula and his three consorts, Constanta, Magdalena, and Alexi. It illustrates how love can become abuse when the fear of betrayal and the intention of controlling become parts of the intimate relationship. Dracula, as the perpetrator, tries to maintain the relationship using harmful patterns. Therefore, he has shown the characteristics of an abusive behaviour perpetrator and the types and phases of abusive behaviour, which become the main discussion for this research.

As the perpetrator, Dracula exhibits abusive behaviour perpetrator characteristics. Dracula is actually a faker who appears to be a perfect and genuine figure in front of others. He uses false charisma and deception to maintain such an image. Therefore, even though he appears to be completely dependent on his consorts' company, he remains a threat to them. This duality arises from his fear of betrayal, which then turns him into a jealous, accusatory, controlling, and aggressive vampire, leading his three consorts to be wary of him. Moreover, he views his three consorts as objects of possession, which makes him an irresponsible partner because he neglects both his responsibilities and the needs of his consorts. He is also a narcissist who believes that everything must revolve around him as he is their creator.

Dracula's abusive behaviour extends from psychological to physical as a means of asserting his control over his consorts. Through his verbal statements, Dracula degrades and threatens his consorts, inflicting insecurity and fear on them. In religious matters, he mocks them for doing anything related to Christianity. Psychologically, he extends to gaslighting and isolation towards his consorts to manipulate their psyche into submission. Furthermore, when these methods prove insufficient, he escalates to injurious physical abuse and sexual abuse. As a result, these behaviours cause physical and mental harm to his three consorts.

Dracula's abusive behaviour goes through three different phases each time he takes a new consort into his harem. In the early days of the relationship, Dracula enters a false honeymoon phase where he presents his loving side to Constanta, Magdalena, and Alexi and makes promises to win their devotion. As time passes, he enters a tension-building phase where he breaks his initial promises to them by becoming aggressive and jealous. In the end, when his patience for disobedience has worn thin, Dracula enters the explosion phase. This phase represents the peak of Dracula's abuse, highlighting the moment when he uses physical abuse against his partners as a necessary act of punishment and discipline.