CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The issue of psychopathic disorder is not a new phenomenon depicted in the media, especially in films. From classical films like *The Silence of the Lambs* (1991) and *American Psycho* (2001) to the recent era like the *Saw* X (2023) from the *Saw* movie franchise and *No Country for Old Men* (2007), there are many cases of studies of psychopathy in real life, including the film *Gone Girl* (2014).

According to previous research, Gone Girl (2014) also represents psychopathic phenomena. One of the main characters, Amy Dunne, is believed to have a Psychopathic disorder with a strong characteristic of manipulation according to Aditira (2019) or deceitfulness according to Pertiwi (2016).

Psychopathy when it fully develops, it significantly increases the likelihood of a person repeatedly engaging in serious and antisocial behavior. This behavior may include reacting aggressively in certain situations, but what sets psychopathy apart is that it involves a more calculated and deliberate form of aggression, as described by Blair (2005:17).

Amy Elliot Dunne is the main character alongside her husband Nicholas Dunne, a.k.a. Nick, in the movie *Gone Girl* (2014). Amy is depicted as a child prodigy. Her early life is used as an inspiration for the children's book *The Amazing Amy,* co-authored by her parents. Amy marries Nick but feels unhappy as time goes on. The plot revolves around her as she went missing while in fact she orchestrated her own fake murder to frame her husband. Desi, one of Amy's ex-boyfriends, is involved in accommodating and hiding her.

The movie Gone Girl by David Fincher explores a psychopathic behavior characteristic of manipulation and the way it utilized by Amy Dunne. Amy's manipulation expressed through her verbal perspective as it explores the narration dictating other characters action, emotion and intensiveness. The deceitfulness and manipulation make *Gone Girl* an entrancing object for a transitivity analysis that could generate significant findings about manipulation.

Since the depiction of Amy's psychopathic manipulation has been studied over the years through her action, yet there appears that none have dissected her intense manipulative on her narration describing her relationship, as the main character, towards Nick Dunne and Desi.

The Writer intends to address this gap by conducting the research through transitivity analysis, underlining Amy's representation and relationship with Nick and Desi. Therefore, by providing the processes Amy uses in representing herself,

Nick, and Desi, the writer hopes that a better understanding of Amy's manipulation in her relationship could be achieved.

1.2 Research question

According to the previous statement, these are the research questions regarding the study:

1. How is transitivity used to actualize Amy's relationship of Amy with Desi in *Gone Girl* movie*?*

2. How transitivity reveal the role Amy plays in the *Gone Girl* movie*?*

3. How is transitivity used to actualize Amy's relationship of Amy with Nick in *Gone Girl* movie*?*

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The objective of this study is to analyze Amy Dunne's manipulative actualization of her relationship in representing other characters and herself. It aims to investigate how Amy actualize her relationship with Desi and Nick and how she plays her roles within the relationship.

1.4 Previous Studies

Ten studies were found by the writer to provide a profound perspective to carry out this research. These studies are divided into two main categories: studies that focus on *Gone Girl* as the object literature of the study and studies that apply the transitivity system as the theory but use diverse literary works.

The first two studies are from Aditira (2019) and Pertiwi (2016). Both researchers analyze Amy. Aditira (2019) characterized her as a great self-obsessed person who engages in criminal acts, and she manipulates and uses her sexual appeal to deceive her victims. In comparison, Pertiwi (2016) was more concerned about Amy's displays of characteristics of antisocial personality disorder in the novel. Both researchers claim that Amy's psychopathic behavior is believed to be influenced by her manipulative family, who used her to create an idealized version of herself in a storybook titled *"Amazing Amy."*.

In 2018, Widyaningsih also studied the *Gone Girl* movies, focusing on the grammatical concept of indirect speech questions. She states that the declarative sentences functioned as indirect questions, based on the theory of pragmatics.

Subsequently, Merzah (2012) analyzes how Amy and Nick employ deceptive strategies. It incorporates plenty of pragma-stylistic theories, such as elements like the concept of deception, speech act theory, politeness, presupposition, specific rhetorical technique. The authors found four main deception strategies: lying, withholding information, red herring, and equivocation.

This study offers a nuanced perspective on unreliable narration, deception, and gendered communication in literature. Due to it's robust in theory, it is at some risk of friction from one theoretical framework to another.

Next, Osborne (2017), touches upon contemporary feminist issues raised by the novel *Gone Girl*. Osborne presents a nuanced discourse that connects Gone Girl not only as a literary work but also as a critique of the people's socio-cultural experience. It focuses more on extrinsic elements rather than intrinsic ones.

Moving on to the study that uses transitivity analysis, Amelia (2023) reveals that the writer primarily uses clauses to depict Seymour's mental disorder. Among the different linguistic processes used in short stories, the verbal process is the most frequently employed, indicating mental health through characters' spoken words, with 20 instances. Material and mental processes come next, with 15 cases each, illustrating mental health through characters' actions and thoughts. Amelia's research focuses more on the process frequencies and explaining the characterization of Seymour's disorder.

In their 2019 study, Ammara and colleagues examined the ideational function of language, specifically transitivity, in Virginia Woolf's "To the Lighthouse." They employed the AntConc 3.5.7 corpus tool to conduct the analysis. The results show how usable transitivity analysis is in analyzing fiction.

As for Putri (2023), she analyzes Napoleon from Animal Farm. She employs transitivity to describe Napoleon's abuse of power. She found out that Napoleon extended his authority prominently using material and verbal processes.

Furqan (2021) uses the transitivity process on the female characters in The Boarding House. The purpose is to count the frequency of the process, and shows that the material process is dominating the frequencies.

Lastly, Sekar (2023) identifies and analyzes, from the novel *It Ends With Us,* Lily's utterances across six trauma reaction categories; emotional, cognitive, behavioral, physical, social, and developmental, using transitivity processes; material, mental, relational, behavioral, verbal, and existential. The findings reveal that Lily's trauma responses are predominantly negative, characterized by anger, fear, denial, guilt, and avoidance, indicating a deep psychological impact from her abusive experiences.

No studies have been conducted to analyze the relationship between Amy's representation and manipulation during the work of this research.

1.5 Scope of the study

To focus the research, the study employs Halliday and Matthiessen's (2014) theoretical framework transitivity system to identify the transitivity processes of Amy Dunne"s manipulation toward her relationship with Desi and Nick Dunne and the way she represented herself in the relationship.

Since the object of the study is a movie, the analysis is limited to the transitivity processes found in the verbal language used by the characters. Meaning, only the processes explicitly expressed through spoken dialogue and monologue

are examined. This transitivity study does not take into account the non-verbal or visual aspects of meaning-making of the movie.

1.6 Writing organization

The format of the writing organizations are as follows:

CHAPTER I   INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of the background of the study, research questions, purpose of the study, significance of the study, previous studies, scope of the study and writing organization.

CHAPTER II   THEORY AND METHODS

This section provides a literary review of the theory used to analyze the data gathered for this research.

CHAPTER III   RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter provides the results and the discussion of an analysis of Amy Dunne's actualization of her manipulation on her relationship using the transitivity system.

CHAPTER IV   CONCLUSION

This chapter shows the conclusion based on the findings of the study.