

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Research

Human life was surrounded by some events that were inevitable and could have had problems. Most of the problems faced by a person had an impact on the person's personality or emotions, including depression, excessive worry, and unstable emotions. Those problems could have come from family, friends, a job or career, and so on. Moreover, the worst effects could have made a person feel unable to control emotions that could have harmed others. Difficulty controlling emotions was often the trigger for a fight that could have had a bad impact on oneself and those around them. There were many types of personality disorders, one of which was borderline personality disorder.

According to the American Psychiatric Association (APA), Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) was a personality disorder that was characterized by unstable interpersonal relationships, moods, emotions, and behavior, along with impulsivity. BPD was experienced by someone who had a different way of thinking, seeing, and feeling than other people in general. What stood out most about borderline individuals was that they lost their temper very easily, logical thinking was ignored, and every experience was processed emotionally. Consumer News and Business Chanel (CNBC) Indonesia stated that a bullying case involving an artist's child, who was part of a group of senior students, occurred at an international school in Jakarta at 2024, shocking Indonesia and

leading to the hospitalization of one victim. The writer understood from this case that the perpetrator of bullying exhibited symptoms of BPD, one of which was petulant.

Generally, everyone in this world wished that they could live in peace and that everything went the right way. However, there was no life without obstacles, because difficulties or problems made people feel alive. However, it was undeniable that problems sometimes had different effects on people, such as depression or difficulty controlling emotions. One factor that could cause harm to oneself was the inability to control one's own emotions. This was a very interesting human personality to study.

Talking about human personality, one of several ways to analyze human personality was by using psychoanalytic theory. Well-known psychoanalysis was introduced by Sigmund Freud. Psychoanalysis emphasized the importance of unconscious mental processes, conflicts, defenses, and hidden meanings. As stated by Freud (1923, p. 45), the entire human personality consisted of three large systems called the id, ego, and superego. The unconscious mind represented the id and superego, while the ego not only operated on a conscious level but also included unconscious aspects that played an important role in balancing drives, morality, and reality. Of the three systems above, only the id played an important role in balancing the drives, morality, and reality that humans had been carrying since they were born. The ego acts as a mediator between the drives of the id and the demands of reality, as well as the moral values of the superego, and the superego regulated how the ego worked.

In the context of BPD, this disorder might have been related to dysfunction in all three parts of the personality structure. Emotional instability, impulsivity, drastic mood swings, and complicated interpersonal relationships might have been the result of complex interactions between the unbalanced or disturbed id, ego, and superego. Effective therapy for BPD often involved working with clients to strengthen ego function and improve their relationship with their id and superego, allowing them to better manage their emotions and relate more healthily to others.

Literature was one of the most interesting and significant expressions of humanity. This was referred to as the entirety of written expression, with the limitation that not every written document could be broken down into literature in a more precise sense (Klarer, 2004). As time went by, literary works tended to be political, historical, or scientific, such as poetry, fiction, drama, and movies. According to Barsam (2016), a movie was simply short for moving images that were beautiful to look at. Each picture was well polished by a reliable editor and technician. Movies often explored complex and interesting characters where the audience could see the actors, including someone who had a personality disorder such as borderline personality disorder. As a result, the writer could determine the actors' behavior in the movie.

The writer selected borderline personality disorder for this research. Because of this phenomenon, borderline personality disorder was a common personality disorder and could affect many people. Experts assumed that

around 2 to 3 percent of the general population had BPD. However, some findings suggested that this estimate might have greatly underestimated the extent of the problem and that up to 6 percent of the population might warranted receiving this diagnosis at some point in their lives (Smith, 2020). Meanwhile, in Indonesia, exact data was not yet known regarding the number of borderline sufferers, but the number is estimated to be increasing along with the number of cases of violence in Indonesia, which was increasing based on news circulating on television and social media. Furthermore, the research on borderline personality disorder could have helped improve professional abilities to deal with and overcome this disorder, thereby helping individuals who experienced it get more effective help.

Individuals who suffered from BPD had trouble managing it effectively, resorting instead to self-destructive behaviors, including risky driving, unsafe sex, and alcohol and substance abuse. People with borderline personalities were more likely than the general population to have been neglected by their parents, to have had multiple caregivers, and to have experienced parental divorce, death, or significant childhood trauma, such as sexual abuse or incest. The intense emotions in childhood trauma, whether caused by neglect or ordinary parenting practices, had a significant impact on the child. In addition to real-life events, BPD was also be seen in the movie that the writer explored, entitled *Wreck-It Ralph*.

*Wreck-It Ralph* (2012) was an animated movie by Walt Disney Animation Studios, featuring the main character, Ralph. One day, Ralph vented

about his boredom as the bad guy, but the other bad guys advised Ralph to ensure that each game character had their role. Ralph revisited the original game, Fix-it Felix Jr. Ralph got jealous when he realized he was not invited. So, he rushed into the apartment just to eat a piece of cake. However, Ralph was already jealous of Felix's medal. So, he caused a fight with the residents of the apartment. Unable to control his jealousy, Ralph ran away and was desperate to go to another game to get a medal of honor like Felix's. As a result, he left all of the apartment's residents.

The writer chose the movie "*Wreck-It Ralph*" as the subject of this research about borderline personality disorder because the movie showed the character Ralph, who had behavior similar to the symptoms of this disorder. Ralph, as the antagonist, experienced frequent mood swings, impulsive behavior, and difficulty recognizing himself, all of which were characteristics of borderline personality disorder. The movie also showed how Ralph experienced depression, anxiety, and anger due to frequent emotional changes, as well as how he behaved impulsively and had difficulty recognizing himself, all of which were common symptoms experienced by people with borderline personality disorder. By using this movie as a subject, the writer could develop a deeper analysis of how movie could be used as a tool to raise awareness about borderline personality disorder.

Based on the explanation above, the writer was interested in exploring and analyzing *Wreck-It Ralph* using borderline personality disorder theory to discuss indications of the main character's personality disorder. Meanwhile,

this research used a psychoanalytic approach from Sigmund Freud to examine psychological conditions in accordance with the topic of this research, "The Borderline Personality Disorder in the movie entitled "*Wreck-It Ralph*" 2012.

## **B. Questions and Scope of the Research**

### **1. Questions of the Research**

Related to the background, the writer had arranged this research through the following questions:

- a. How were the variations of borderline personality disorder portrayed in Ralph in the *Wreck-It Ralph* movie?
- b. How were the causes of borderline personality disorder portrayed in Ralph in the *Wreck-It Ralph* movie?

### **2. Scope of the Research**

Based on the background above, the writer limited the research focus only to borderline personality disorder with a psychoanalytic approach by analyzing Ralph as the main character from *Wreck-It Ralph* using borderline personality disorder by Millon's and Smith's theories.

The dialogue and gestures from the movie *Wreck-It Ralph* were used by the writer in this research. The data that had already occurred was discussed in relation to the borderline condition.

## C. Objective and Significance of the Research

### 1. Objective of the Research

According to the questions and scope of the research above, the objectives of the research were described as follows:

- a. To find out how the variations of borderline personality disorder were portrayed in Ralph in the *Wreck-It Ralph* movie.
- b. To identify how the causes of the borderline personality disorder were portrayed in Ralph in the *Wreck-It Ralph* movie.

### 2. Significance of the Research

Theoretically, the writer hoped this research could help understand borderline personality disorder and its contribution to the literature field, especially the study of psychoanalysis. This research could also theoretically contribute to the research on the main character's borderline personality disorder in the *Wreck-It Ralph* movie.

Practically, this study's aim could be used by other writers who wanted to conduct deep, structured research on psychoanalysis. Finally, if the readers wanted to analyze the same object, the writer suggested that they read more closely to uncover new problems that had not been discovered in this research.

## **D. Operational Definiton**

The research term or variable needed to be defined to avoid misunderstanding and to serve as guide for the writer to have further discussion.

### **a. Literature**

Literature referred to written works created by writers, whether in the form of poetry, prose fiction, drama, or movie, which are considered to have artistic and aesthetic value.

### **b. Psychoanalysis**

Psychoanalysis was an approach in psychology that understood human psychological functions and behavior.

### **c. Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD)**

A personality disorder characterized by unstable patterns of behavior and thoughts, and problematic interpersonal relationships that caused tendency to have difficulty regulating the emotions.

### **d. Main Character**

The main character was the central figure who drove the plot and underwent the main journey or conflict in the story and was the main focus of the audience or reader's attention.

### **e. Movie**

Audio-visual works that combined moving images with sound to tell a story or convey a message to the audience.



## **E. Systematization of the Research**

Systematization of the research means presenting the research in well-edited composing. This research consists of five chapters. Each chapter was explained with a short narrative, concise and clear systematization. The systemization of the research was written systematically as follows:

Chapter I Introduction contains the research background, questions and scope of the research, the objectives and significance of the research, operational definitions, and the systematization of the research.

Chapter II Theoretical Description contains a description based on the sequence of research points. In addition, the research's primary theory of expert knowledge was explained. This was also followed by definitions from several experts as theoretical support to strengthen it. Then, this research also included previous research which summarizes the similarities and differences of the research.

Chapter III Research Methodology describes the methods of the research (location and time of carrying out the research), the research procedure, data collection techniques, data analysis techniques, and the data source explained the sources in the form of books, websites, or journals that had been used.

Chapter IV Data Analysis describes data descriptions, data analysis, and interpretations of the research findings.

Chapter V Conclusions and Suggestions functions as a closing that presented the overall research conclusions. The writer summarized the main findings that had been obtained from the data analysis. Finally, this chapter also

provided recommendations for further research or practical implications of the research results.

