

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

People experience good and bad things in the world where each experience could influence their life or form their personality. Bad experiences could create trauma to the human. For example, a child who suffered because of her father's attitude in the past would experience long rejection towards her father. She would reject anything which could remind her to her father. Trauma does not only affect a person's personality but it could also haunt the person about the painful events that happened in the past. A painful events occur in the childhood period might create trauma which could influence the children behaviour until the person becomes an adult. However, trauma could be cured with the help of the therapist (psychiatrist) by holding therapy session. There are many ways in order to cure or treat the trauma. One way in healing the trauma is talking cure. Talking cure is a method in curing patient by talking about the patient's past. It was created in the earliest days of psychoanalysis and was first done by Sigmund Freud and Joseph Breuer. The core of talking cure is the dialog between the patient and the therapist itself (Atterton 25). Talking cure in healing the trauma is selected as one of the main issues represented in the novel *Hannibal*.

Hannibal is written in 1999 by Thomas Harris. *Hannibal* is the sequel of the novel *The Silence of the Lamb* by the same author. The setting place of this

novel is mostly in Baltimore and Florence. The setting is also taken place in other locations such as Behavioral Science at Quantico, Muskrat Farm, and Fish market.

The author of *Hannibal* is Thomas Harris. This author is popular as the creator of Hannibal Lecter, the most popular character in the world (The University of Mississippi English Department The Mississippi). As a mystery novel author, Thomas Harris' life is an enigma means his life is also mysterious. It could be said that his novels reflect his life. The enigma of his life is proved by the difficulty to find the information about his life.

Thomas Harris is a native of Mississippi. He began his writing career covering crime in the United States and Mexico. He was born in Jackson Tennessee in 1940. When he was at young age, his family moved so his father can be a farmer. He chased English major for his education and he works as a reporter at the News-Tribune by night, he met and married a fellow student named Harriet. They had one daughter, Anne, before they divorced in the 1960s (The University of Mississippi English Department, The Mississippi). His first novel is *Black Sunday* (1975) then followed by *Red Dragon* (1981), *The Silence of the Lambs* (1988), and *Hannibal* (1999).

Hannibal is the sequel of *The Silence of the Lambs* which explains more about Starling's trauma. It also discusses about the talking cure process in healing Starling's trauma. The novel also tells about the ending of the relationship between Hannibal Lecter and Clarice Starling. *Hannibal* also achieves as number one New York Times Best Seller.

The novel *Hannibal* has two main characters. They are Hannibal Lecter and Clarice Starling. The male main character is Hannibal Lecter, a psychiatrist who turns into a cannibal. He is the killer of some people in America and is categorized to ten most wanted criminal in the world along with bombers. Hannibal meets Clarice Starling, the female main character. Clarice Starling is an FBI agent with a promising future. Hannibal shows some interests towards her. When he met Starling for the first time, Hannibal considered Starling as an interesting character and wanted to know more about Starling. Hannibal also asked her to play Quid Pro Quo to make Starling told about her life. He started to like Starling and showed sympathy towards her. After he eloped from Memphis, he does not meet Starling for seven years. He kills a curator in Florence before he moves and takes the curator's position there. Although, Dr. Lecter is separated with Starling, he still follows any news about Starling.

The female main character is Clarice Starling. Clarice Starling is an orphan girl who becomes an FBI agent. She is still in trainee program but has a promising future. She is ambitious in chasing her dream as FBI agent. Starling works well in her training. Starling appears as a smart and strong girl. However, she has a trauma about her childhood that still haunts her until the present time. Since Starling's parents died when she was a child, she was sent to her aunt's house in the ranch where she was close to a blind horse she named Hannah. One night, Starling heard the screaming sound. She found out that it was the sound of the lambs which could be slaughtered. Starling felt worry towards Hannah for the possibility it got slaughtered that night. She then decided to elope with Hannah

ignoring the slaughtering lambs. Her failure in releasing the lambs haunts her until she becomes an adult. Sometimes she wakes up in the middle of the night hearing the screaming of the lambs. Starling is also haunted by the death of her father. She always remembers her father much rather than her mother. Moreover, Starling's deep love towards her father also influences her behaviour development. Then she faces Buffalo Bill's crime where it makes her meeting one of dangerous criminals, Hannibal Lecter. Starling is sent to him to get Lecter's help in catching Buffalo Bill. Dr. Lecter sees this phenomenon thus he decides to cure Starling by using talking cure method.

In talking cure method, Atterton argues that the dialog between the patient and the therapist is the important thing in the therapy process. It is important to make the patient tells the truth about the problems. The first step in talking cure is the therapist should make the patient feels relax. Usually the therapist would lay down the patient on sofa. The therapist then hypnotizes the patient. Under the hypnotize process, the patient could tell anything about the problems emerged. In the middle of the therapy, the therapist's job is only guiding the patient by giving the patient some questions which could lead both the patient and the therapist to find the problem. The therapist only asks the questions without inserting any personal questions or comment and also could not judge the patient. He must pay attention to the patient's facial expression, whether the patient tells the truth or the patient lies (by changing the facial expression). It is important for the therapist not to force the patient to talk. If it is possible, the therapist is not let to show his presence and becomes the projection of the patient's conscious and unconscious.

The talking cure in healing Starling's trauma is the issue chosen to be analyzed in *Hannibal*. This issue is chosen because the person who applies the therapy to Starling is Hannibal Lecter, a cannibal psychiatrist. The process of talking cure by Dr. Lecter itself is quite different with ordinary talking cure. It is not only different but if it is compared to other's ordinary therapy, Dr. Lecter's talking cure method could be considered as an extreme therapy. In the real life, Lecter's therapy would not be allowed by the society because it breaks moral values in the society. However, Lecter's therapy could heal Starling's trauma which could be said as an acute trauma. It is said as acute because the events which created Starling's trauma happened many years ago. Starling never does anything to treat or to cure her trauma or it could be said that she even does not consider herself as a sick person. Although she thinks she is a healthy and normal person, she still remembers clearly about the detail of her past experience as if it happened only yesterday (she is easily drawn to her memory about her family). She also experiences Electra complex which makes her loves her father deeply. When her father died, she could not accept the death of her father. The absence of close relatives also makes Starling does not have anyone to share her feelings.

Talking cure method as one issue represented in *Hannibal* is interesting to be analyzed because of some reasons. The first reason is because of the therapist, Dr. Hannibal 'the Cannibal' Lecter. As it stated above, Lecter is a cannibal or in other word he is a person who needs to be cured. Dr. Lecter was a prisoner of Baltimore State Hospital for the Criminally Insane while Freud or other ordinary psychiatrists are the normal people which mean they do not have personal

disorder like Dr. Lecter. In this case, Dr. Lecter is the patient but he takes the part as the psychiatrist. For Dr. Lecter, Starling is a special case which is proved by his attitude towards Starling. He never shows any good attitude towards other people. When she sees Starling, he considers Starling has an interesting personality. Starling is different from other people beside Dr. Lecter who always follow his control and scare of him. Starling acts tough and stubborn even she rebels to Dr. Lecter's intimidation. Beside, Starling also reminds Dr. Lecter towards his sister, Mischa. It makes Dr. Lecter as a therapist shows his interest and even sympathy towards Starling. When he knows Starling has trauma towards her childhood experience, he decides to help Starling.

The second reason is the talking cure method done by Dr. Lecter. Dr. Lecter as a cannibal uses extreme ways to cure Starling's trauma. He ignores the society rules and moral values. He has his own definition of right and wrong. The method done by him is modified from Freud's Talking cure method. He modified it into three methods: 'Quid Pro Quo' method, the use of the hypnotic process and drugs, and the shocking therapy which is more suitable to their condition. A normal talking cure process could not be done in Starling's case because of the place and the time. Dr. Lecter's status as the prisoner does not let them to hold normal therapy session. The last reason is because the influences of talking cure method done by Dr. Lecter. Related to Dr. Lecter as the therapist, the method brings some influences which do not happen in ordinary patient of the therapy. The transference phenomenon happens in Starling influences Starling's personality which also causes some changes in Starling's social and sexual life.

To analyze the issue, Sigmund Freud psychoanalysis theory would be applied especially because talking cure was created by Sigmund Freud and Joseph Breuer in the early time of Psychoanalysis Studies. Freud then continued the study about talking cure which later became Free Association method. Freudian psychoanalysis also explains about human personality development, Electra complex, and childhood trauma which are the phenomena happen in Starling.

The therapy done by Dr. Lecter also shows different result from Freud's therapy. It could be said that Talking Cure done by Dr. Lecter is effective in healing Starling's childhood trauma and finishes Starling's Electra complex. It is the same with Freud and Breuer's talking cure. However, the change of Starling's personality and behaviour is making the difference. After the therapy, transference phenomenon emerges as the one effect of the therapy. Transference phenomenon is the phenomenon where the patient produces powerful influences which appear as joy or anxiety. The patients feel happy because the therapist has helped them or they feel hostiles towards the therapist because they always make them remember about their unhappy experience (Ogden 25-26). It could be said that the patient transfers the feeling to the psychiatrist. This phenomenon happens in Starling and it makes her changes her attitude and becomes a cannibal like Dr. Lecter.

1.2. Statement of the Problems

The writer of this study would like to analyze *Hannibal* and answer the following questions:

1. How does talking cure method by Hannibal Lecter cure Clarice Starling's trauma?
2. How does talking cure method influence Starling's personality development?
3. What is the difference between Talking Cure conducted by Dr. Lecter and the ordinary psychiatrist in the real life?

1.3. The Objectives of the Study

Regarding to the statement of the problems, the objectives of this study are:

1. To find out the way talking cure method by Hannibal Lecter in healing Starling's trauma and to find out Starling's behaviour changing before and after talking cure method.
2. To find out the influences of talking cure process in Starling's personality.
3. To find out the difference between the talking cure conducted by Dr. Lecter and the ordinary psychiatrist in the real life.

1.4. Significance of the Study

People experience good and bad things in the world. Those experiences could form their personality. In *Hannibal*, Starling's past has formed her behaviour. Starling's childhood time could be considered as the worst one. She experiences trauma related to the death of her father and childhood experiences as the orphan girl. Through this study, the writer wishes to present the effectiveness

of talking cure method in finding the patient's problem and the effectiveness of talking cure in healing the patient's trauma. The study also presents the difference between talking cure in the fiction and the real world and it also presents the reason Lecter's therapy could not be done in the real life. The writer wishes this study would become a worthy addition to all the students of English Department in Airlangga University.

1.5. Scope and Limitations

In order to gain a comprehensive analysis, a scope and limitation will be applied. The first thing to be analyzed is the text. The text would be discussed is a novel by Thomas Harris titled *Hannibal* (1999). The aspects which are considered could give the support to the analysis is possible.

The study will be focused on the talking cure method applied by Hannibal Lecter in order to heal Starling's trauma that is shown in the novel and the differences of talking cure in real life and in the novel. Other therapies might also possible to appear in *Hannibal*, but they will not be discussed in this study. The writer of the study will only be focused on the data which is taken from the novels and other sources which could support the arguments on the analysis.

1.6. Theoretical Background

To understand the Talking Cure as the healing method by Hannibal Lecter in *Hannibal*, the writer of the study applies Freudian Psychoanalysis theory. Freudian Psychoanalysis theory is chosen because Talking Cure itself is the part

of psychoanalysis study. It was created in the earlier period of psychoanalysis. Freud as the creator of the theory also explains about human mind and phenomena happen related to the human life.

For Freud, however, the mind was like an iceberg: the small part of the iceberg that we see represents the conscious mind; the great mass below the water represents the unconscious urges, passions, and repressed ideas and feelings that control conscious thought and action (Calvin S. Hall and Gardner Lindzey 30).

Freud also argues the theory about five stages of human personality development (which are Oral, Anal, Phallic, Latent, and Genital stage) and the role of each stage to human life. He also explains the effect of good or bad experience towards the future stage of the person (like in Starling's case). According to Freud, in phallic stage, girls face the Electra phenomenon where they realize that they are penis-less and inferior. They then find out that those 'object' could be found in the father's character. The girls conclude that the father could fulfill their wish and develop the love towards the father. However, at the same time, they also develop hostiles feeling towards the mother because they consider it is the mother's fault to bring them to the world without penis. They also consider the mother as the rival in order to get the father's love (Feist 95). This phenomenon is experienced by Starling. The Electra complex phenomenon is not finished because her father died when she was ten years old. This event influences her until she becomes an adult.

To cure Starling's childhood trauma, Dr. Lecter applies Talking Cure method which was found by Breuer and Freud. Talking Cure or Chimney Sweeping is the name given by the first patient of Anna O. Talking cure is the method in 'taking out' the mental problems by talking it out.

1.7. Method of the Study

The study is the library research and the main source is the novel itself. The writer will also use other literatures as well as online sources in order to provide supports to explain the study.

Another method that will also be used is data collecting. All the data will be taken from the contents of the novel. The data collecting will be done by having close reading of the text, making the data classification, and selecting the data that could be related with talking cure method. The study also makes the data collection about Starling's behaviour and trauma that haunts her. Later the data would be analyzed by connecting Starling's background past and the effect of the trauma to her behaviour. The study would also analyze the process of talking cure method depicted in the novel and the effect of talking cure in Starling's personality.

In doing the analysis, psychoanalysis method would be applied. The data collected would be analyzed by using the theory and the study would describe the explanation so the reader would understand the process of talking cure method and the effect in Starling's character. The data which is used to support the study will be collected from books, journal, films, and website pages.

1.8. Definition of Key Terms

Electra Complex : simple female Oedipus Complex or the desire for sexual intercourse from girls towards the father which is accompanied by the feeling of hostility towards the mother.

Talking cure : a method in curing patient by talking about the patient's past.

Trauma : a painful experience that scars people psychologically.

Transference : the phenomenon where the patient of the therapy transfers the feeling exists in the previous relationship (towards the people around him/her) to the analyst or the therapist.