

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

There are various types of human beings in this world. Each individual has each personality that is different from one to another. There are many factors that are able to influence someone's personality such as family, childhood experience and society around him/her. These factors influence their personality development since they are children and will form their personality later when they grow up to be adults. It will also influence their entire life later. As Sigmund Freud states that individual human beings, each with a psychological history that begins in childhood experiences in the family and each with patterns of adolescent and adult behavior that are direct result of that early experience (Tyson 14). From that quotation, it can be seen that family is also the important part of someone's personality development and in this case, parents hold the important role because parents are the people who should guide children's personality development.

As it is said above, one of the factors which is able to give important role in someone's personality development until he/she grows up to be adult is childhood experience including childhood trauma. The issue of childhood experience that causes trauma and influences someone's personality development is an issue that will be researched in Jeff Lindsay's novel *Darkly Dreaming Dexter*. Experiences in the family and parents' role are also issues that will be explored in this study, how it influences the main character's personality

development and also his life later. Those factors lead the main character to do negotiation between instincts in him that are life instinct (Eros) and death instinct (Thanatos).

Jeff Lindsay who has origin name Jeffrey P. Freundlich is an American writer who was born on 14 July 1952 in Miami. He lives in Cape Coral, Florida with his wife, Hilary Hemingway, a niece of a popular author, Ernest Hemingway. He graduated from Middlebury College, Vermont, in 1975 (Goodreads 1). He writes Dexter series of novels and *Darkly Dreaming Dexter* is the first novel of the series which is published in 2004. *Darkly Dreaming Dexter* tells about a serial killer who has two contrary personalities that are as a serial killer and also as a police. He writes *Darkly Dreaming Dexter* from the killer's point of view. Lindsay chooses a serial killer as the main character because he is going to tell a killer's story from the killer's point of view; therefore he has to do something to make the main character seem vulnerable. Serial killers are usually very sure of themselves, and Lindsay needs the main character to have some self-doubt (Luan 1). This novel is included on the original nomination list for the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar Awards in the Best First Novel category and wins the 2005 Dilys Award presented by the Independent Mystery Booksellers Association. It is also the basis of Showtime television series titled *Dexter*.

Darkly Dreaming Dexter is a novel which tells about Dexter Morgan, the main character of the novel, who is a police in Miami-Dade Police Department as a forensic blood spatter pattern analyst. No one knows except his foster-father that besides his "light life" as a police, Dexter has a "dark side" of his life that is as a

serial killer. However, he only kills people who deserve it such as murderer who escapes from the judicial punishment. He considers his desire to kill is pushed by an inner voice that he refers to as “Dark Passenger” and he cannot help it. Dexter has had desire to kill since he is a child and that desire is influenced by his childhood trauma. His foster father who understands his strange desire gives legitimacy that permits him to do a murder to a person. At first Dexter cannot remember his past or his childhood. When he meets a new serial killer who is actually his biological brother whom he never remembers, Dexter begins to remember his past and his traumatic event. There is an event in his childhood that gives big influence towards his personality that is his mother’s death. When he is three years old, he and his older brother see their mother’s head is laid on the floor and they are surrounded by blood. They are in that awful situation for two and half day before police finds them.

Loss of beloved people especially parents (mother) in an awful way and situation which is experienced by Dexter and happens in childhood age give big influence towards someone’s psychological. It will cause such a trauma on him. Childhood trauma can manifest someone’s personality and behavior. That awful event strongly influences Dexter and it forms his personality until he becomes adult. Freud suggests that basically personality has been formed on the fifth years and childhood period has role that influences the following years (Suryabrata 140). Therefore events that happened before the fifth year will influence the formation of someone’s personality when he/she grows up to be adult. Dexter also experiences Oedipus complex towards his mother as his mother is the only parent

whom he has. Dexter never knows his father and he has dependence towards his mother.

Someone's personality can also be influenced by his instinct or impulse that determines his behavior. Freudian psychoanalysis sees that human's instinct can be categorized into two basic instincts that are life instinct or Eros and death instinct or Thanatos (Feist 31). Dexter's life as a serial killer including his desire to kill is influenced by his strong instinct which is suspected as death instinct (Thanatos). His strong Thanatos is influenced by some factors that are his childhood trauma, Oedipus complex experience and his foster father's legitimacy. Those factors lead him to always do negotiation between his two instincts that are Eros and Thanatos. Dexter's personality and behavior are influenced deeply by his childhood trauma and his strong Thanatos leads him to have different personality with other normal people. However, surprisingly in some occasions he shows behavior which is contrast to his personality in which it reflects the manifestation of his Eros. It shows that Dexter always does negotiation process between his Eros and Thanatos. That negotiation leads him to experience certain fixation and influences some aspects of his life such as his sexual, social and career life.

From the previous explanation about the issue that will be analyzed, Dexter's negotiation between his Eros and Thanatos and its influence towards his life will be the main issue that is discussed in this study. The theory of Psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud is the most appropriate theory that will be applied in this study especially about Eros and Thanatos, Oedipus complex and fixation.

1.2 Statements of the Problems

In order to analyze the negotiation process which is done by the main character between his Eros and Thanatos, the formulated problems that will be elaborated in this analysis are:

1. How is Dexter's negotiation process between Eros and Thanatos portrayed in the novel?
2. How does Dexter's negotiation between Eros and Thanatos influence his life?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Regarding the statements of the problems, the aims of the analysis of the thesis are:

1. To identify the process of Dexter's negotiation between Eros and Thanatos.
2. To elaborate the influence of Dexter's negotiation process between Eros and Thanatos towards his life.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is proposed to give distinct explanation about the negotiation process between Eros and Thanatos that influences the main character's personality development in Jeff Lindsay's novel, *Darkly Dreaming Dexter*. This

study aims to explain the influences of the negotiation process between Eros and Thanatos which is done by the main character.

This study examines the process of the main character's personality development from childhood which is influenced by his childhood trauma and Oedipus complex experience and how he deals with that trauma and does the negotiation process during his life. It is targeted that this study will give some knowledge and awareness especially for parents about childhood experience and its influence towards someone's personality development since childhood age has important role in the development of someone's personality. This research is also meant to give contribution towards the study of literature particularly in English Department of the Faculty of Humanities of Airlangga University in the case of the negotiation process between Eros and Thanatos.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

In order to avoid out of the topic that will be analyzed, this research is focusing on the main character's negotiation between his Eros and Thanatos and also the influences of its negotiation towards his life. This research will also use some concepts of psychoanalysis theory that are related to the problem in the text that will be analyzed in this study. Therefore other problems that are not related to the main character's negotiation process between his Eros and Thanatos and also the influences of its negotiation towards his life will not be analyzed in detail. The problem that is going to be analyzed in this study is derived from *Darkly Dreaming Dexter* novel which is written by Jeff Lindsay, published in 2004. Data

for this study is taken within the text and other sources that provide support data in doing this analysis. Therefore the other problems or elements besides the focus of the study will not be analyzed in detail, for instance about the detail of Dexter's murder such as whom the victims are and what the crimes that they do are until Dexter decides to kill them.

1.6 Theoretical Background

Darkly Dreaming Dexter novel tells about a serial killer in which the main character's personality as a serial killer is influenced by his childhood trauma. His past event affects his personality development and results him to do the negotiation process between his Eros and Thanatos during his life. Besides his childhood trauma, the negotiation process that has to be done by the main character is also influenced by several factors including Oedipus complex that he experiences. Therefore Freudian psychoanalysis theory will be applied in analyzing this problem.

Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis theory especially theory of Eros and Thanatos and also theory of Oedipus complex and fixation will be applied in this research. Dexter's life and personality development are influenced by his trauma and Oedipus complex which he experiences when his mother died. Oedipus complex occurs in infantile stage that begins from the time of the birth until the age of four (Milner 111; translation is mine).

Dexter's childhood trauma and Oedipus complex experience lead him to do negotiation process between his Eros and Thanatos during his life. Eros is life

instinct while Thanatos is death instinct. The negotiation process between Dexter's Eros and Thanatos leads Dexter to experience fixation. Fixation is the primary attachment of the libido onto an earlier, more primitive stage of development (Feist 36). In Dexter's case, the term of Oedipus complex, Eros Thanatos and fixation will be explored in the analysis to investigate the relation between his personality development with the negotiation process that he does between his Eros and Thanatos which caused by some factors that are his childhood trauma, Oedipus complex experience and his foster father's legitimacy.

1.7 Method of the Study

This research is using a qualitative method. The main source of this research is the text itself, *Darkly Dreaming Dexter* a novel which is written by Jeff Lindsay, so data collecting method will also be used. The writer does close reading of the text and selects data that is related to the problem that will be analyzed by giving quotation in this paper. Therefore this method is also supported by library research and the literature studies. The collected data will be analyzed using psychoanalysis theory in analyzing the matters in the novel. Other sources including online sources that provide support data about childhood experience and trauma will also be used to elaborate the analysis.

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

<i>Anxiety</i>	: uncomfortable energy that seeks release because sexual arousal is blocked, it arises as a reaction to a state of danger
<i>Desire</i>	: strong wish to have or do something; person or somebody that is wished for
<i>Eros</i>	: life instinct; its aim is to preserve life
<i>Personality development</i>	: The process of human basic personality growth
<i>Serial killer</i>	: a person who murders several people one after another
<i>Thanatos</i>	: death instinct; its aim is to return organism to the inorganic state that is death
<i>Trauma</i>	: an unpleasant experience that causes one distress or anxiety