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## THE IMPACTS OF BULLYING TO THE MAIN CHARACTER IN THE MOVIE *CARRIE*: A LITERARY PSYCHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

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**Abstract:** In this research, the researcher identified the types of bullying and described the impacts of bullying to the main character in movie *Carrie*. The data in this research are in the form of utterances and actions that contains bullying in movie *Carrie*. This research was done by analyzing the data qualitatively. Here are the steps to analyze the data; 1) identifying or classifying data based on the types of bullying by The National Centre Against Bullying (2019), 2) describing impacts of bullying used theory of Ken Righby in *Can J Psychiatry* (2003), and 3) making the conclusion based on the types and impacts of bullying in movie *Carrie*. The finding of the research showed that there were three impacts of bullying on the main character in movie *Carrie*: low psychological well-being, poor adjustment, and psychological distress. Low psychological well-being was the most dominant impact of bullying occurred in movie *Carrie*. There were four types of bullying found in movie *Carrie*: physical bullying, verbal bullying, social bullying, and cyber bullying. Verbal bullying was the most dominant type of bullying found in movie *Carrie*.

**Keywords:** *bullying, Movie Carrie, psychological impacts*

## INTRODUCTION

In this era, movie is not only used as a medium of entertainment but movie is also one of the media used to convey messages or information and as a medium of propaganda. As a mass media, the movie is also used as a medium to describe issues that occur in society, or to form reality itself. Stories in the movie usually depart from a phenomenon that occurs around us because nowadays the movie also serves as a shaper of mass culture. Among the issues that arose in society school bullying is an issue that gets a lot of attention from the public.

Bullying action not only leads to psychic trauma, but also causes casualties and triggered the act of revenge. According to Bauman (2008: 365-375), bullying is the use of violence, threats, or coercion to abuse or intimidate other people. Bullying act that occurs in various places is one of the social reality that many raised into the movie.

Here the researcher selects *Carrie* as the object of her research. *Carrie* is an American supernatural horror film of 2013 produced by MGM and Screen Gems, and was released on October 18, 2013. *Carrie* tells the story of an ignorant girl named *Carrie* who lives with her religious and conservative mother, Margaret White.

The researcher chose to focus about literary psychological to represent the types and the impacts of bullying to main character in *Carrie*. So, the researcher formulated the research problem as followings: What are the types of bullying found in *Carrie*? What are the bullying impacts to the main character in *Carrie*? The benefits of this study are: This research could share the knowledge about bullying and psychological. Then, the readers could inform the cause and effect of bullying, so the readers in society could avoid it. This research can be an additional information or knowledge for future researchers.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

### **Literature**

Literature is a form of human expression; However, not everything expressed in words, even when organized and written down, is counted as literature. Such primarily informative writing forms —technical, scholarly, journalistic—would be excluded from the rank of literature by most, though not all, critics. Though, certain forms of writing, are universally regarded as belonging to literature as an art. Individual attempts within these forms are seen to succeed if they possess artistic merit and to fail if they do not. The nature of artistic merit is less easy to define than to recognize. The writer does not even need to pursue it to attain it. On the contrary, a scientific exposition might be of great literary value and a pedestrian poem of none at all.

The purest (or, at least, the most intense) literary form is the lyric poem, and after it, comes elegiac, epic, dramatic, narrative, and expository verses. Most theories of literary criticism base themselves on an analysis of poetry as the aesthetic problems of literature are there presented in the simplest and purest form. Poetry that fails as literature is not called poetry at all but verse. Many novels, certainly all the world's great novels, are literature. Nonetheless, there are thousands that are not so considered. Most great dramas are considered literature.

## **Psychology**

Literary Psychology is a text analysis taking into account the relevance and role of psychological studies. Hence, psychology plays an important part in analyzing a literary work by working from the psychological angle of the literary works both from the author, character, and readers. By focusing attention on the characters, we can analyze the inner conflicts contained in the literary work. Thus, it can be generally concluded that the relationship between literature and psychology is so close that it melts and gives birth to a new science called "Literary Psychology". The phenomenon of literature as a personal mirror has long been developed; However, the term "mirror" is a personal reflection of the author because it is not always the person of the author as entry into the rich literature (Endraswara, 2008:28).

Personality is closely related to human behavior. As a "producer" of personality, man should reflect on his own behavior. The "freedom" in literature exists and occurs according to human behavior as its constituent, thereby becoming a "whole human culture". Morality and behavior that it formed could represent a society or class if it has become a habit. The important thing is that there is no personality law apart from the theory of psychology. Personality psychology studies the human personality with the object of research factors that affect human behavior. The first goal of personality psychology is to obtain information about human behavior. The second goal is encouraging individuals to live a full and satisfactory life. Then, the last goal is that the individual is able to fully develop his or her potential through the change of the psychological environment.

In psychology there are three schools of thought (Koswara, 1991):

1. psychoanalysis, which presents humans as the formation of instincts and personality conflicts.
2. behaviorism, characterizing humanity as a flexible, passive and obedient victim against environmental stimuli.
3. humanistic psychology, man is described as a free and dignified creature and always moves towards the disclosure of all his potential if the environment allows it.

According to Corey (2003:13), the main historical contributions of psychoanalytic theory and practice cover:

1. the individual's mental life becomes understandable, and an understanding of human nature can be applied to the relief of human suffering.
2. behavior is known to be determined by unconscious factors often
3. early childhood developments have a strong influence on adulthood's personalities.
4. psychoanalytic theories provide a valuable framework for understanding the ways in which individuals deal with anxiety by assuming there are working mechanisms to avoid anxiety.
5. the psychoanalytic approach has provided ways of seeking information from the unconscious through the analysis of dreams, resistances, and transitions.

### **Bullying**

Shetgiri (2013) sees bullying a serious public health problem that can affect one in three children in the United States. The power differential may be because of some causes: physical size, psychological/social power, or other factors. The followings are the risk factors of bullying:

1. being physically weaker
2. low self-worth
3. negative self-perceptions
4. low social competence
5. poor social skills and problem-solving abilities
6. internalizing behaviors (depression, anxiety)
7. insecure mother-child attachment
8. maternal over-protectiveness
9. intrusive or coercive parenting
10. child abuse

### **Types of bullying**

Based on the National Centre against Bullying (2019), below are the different types of bullying that can occur.

1. Physical bullying

Physical abuse includes hitting, kicking, tripping, pinching and pushing or destroying property. Physical violence causes short-term and long-term damage.

## 2. Verbal bullying

Verbal abuse includes calling, humiliation, temptation, intimidation, homophobic or racist comments, or verbal abuse. While verbal bullying can start harmless, it can rise to levels that start affecting individual targets. Keep reading in this section for techniques to deal with verbal bullying.

## 3. Social bullying

Social oppression, sometimes referred to as hidden intimidation, is often more difficult to recognize and can be done behind the backs of people being bullied. It is designed to damage a person's social reputation and / or cause humiliation. Social oppression includes:

- a. lie and spread the gossip
- b. physical movement or negative face, threatening or insulting appearance
- c. playing nasty jokes to embarrass others
- d. imitating is not good
- e. encourage others to exclude someone socially
- f. treats one's social reputation or social acceptance.

## 4. Cyber bullying

Cyber bullying can be overtly using digital technology, including hardware such as computers and smartphones, and software such as social media, instant messaging, text, websites, and other online platforms. Cyber bullying can occur anytime. It can be done publicly or privately and sometimes only known by the target and the person doing the bullying. Cyber bullying may include:

- a. email or disturbing or painful postings or texts, images or videos
- b. didually exclude others online
- c. good rumors or rumors
- d. mint other people online or use their log-in

## **Impacts of Bullying**

According to Rigby (2003), where bullying is highly aggressive and conspicuously damaging to others as in the case of physical assault, one would expect legal consequences. Here are the four categories of negative, damaging, health conditions t thacan be identified as the impacts of bullying:

1. Low psychological well-being. This impacts include states of mind generally considered unpleasant but not acutely distressing, for examples: general unhappiness, low self-esteem, and feelings of anger and sadness.
2. Poor social adjustment. This impact normally includes feelings of aversion toward one's social environment, evident through expressed dislike for school or workplace, manifest loneliness, isolation, and absenteeism.
3. Psychological distress. This is considered more serious than the first two categories. This state includes high levels of anxiety, depression, and suicidal thought.
4. Physical unwellness. There are clear signs of physical disorder evident in medically diagnosed illness.

### **Synopsis**

*Carrie* is a remake of a movie with the same title released in 1976. Unlike the version of the 1976 release, the remake focuses more on Carrie and Margaret's relationship. *Carrie* tells the story of a girl named Carrie who lived with her religious and conservative mother, Margaret White. Excommunicated with the mother by the environment where they live, Carrie who was a gentle girl turned into an ignorant girl at her age. One day when Carrie was showering, she shouted asking for help because he saw much blood on her body. Since then, Carrie was seen strange by his friends.

### **METHOD**

In conducting this research, the researcher used descriptive qualitative approach. According to Moleong (1998), the qualitative method is a research procedure which results in descriptive data and inclines to use analysis more care about process and meaning from the research objectives. The data source in this research is a movie entitled *Carrie*. Then, the research data were in the form of utterances, behavior, and situation that involved the main character which indicate the types and impacts of bullying. The researcher used herself as the main instrument by watching movie and analysing the data . The movie was analyzed carefully by content analysis after watching *Carrie*.

There were some steps of collecting the data in order to complete this research: Watching *Carrie* a few times, screencapturing the scenes with the subtitle and situation indicating bullying, and noting down the data in the table of data collection. To analyze the data, the researcher used some theories from experts. For that, there were some steps

to analyze the data: Identifying types of bullying found in *Carrie* by using of the National Against Centre Bullying (2019), explaining or describing impacts of bullying experienced by main character. The researcher used the theory from Ken Rigby (2003), and drawing conclusion or making conclusion about the types and impacts of bullying in *Carrie*.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Findings**

This section presents the data contain of bullying found in *Carrie*. there were nine data found by researcher. The data found were four verbal bullyings, two social bullyings, two cyber bullyings, and one for physical bullying. Those bullyings gave the impacts to the main character in *Carrie*, the researcher found five low psychological well-being, and three poor social adjustment. The findings were obtained based on the types of bullying and the impacts of bullying in movie *Carrie*.

#### **1. Verbal bullying**

Verbal bullying occurs when an individual uses a verbal language (e.g., insult, tease, etc) to gain power over his or her peers. For example, a less athletically inclined peer may be called nerd or wimp.

Code : 001/CM/00:06:28

Chris : you eat shit.

The utterance “you eat shit” was said by Chris to Carrie in the swimming pool because Carrie could not serve the ball and all her friends laughed at her and Chris threw the ball at Carrie while saying bad words to Carrie. Chris said harsh word to Carrie by saying that she would eat shit. Her utterance was involved as a verbal bullying. “You eat shit” is a kind of verbal bullying because the sentence showed humiliation done by Chris to Carrie. The impact of this bullying is low psychological well-being. Carrie as the victim of bullying felt low self-esteem and sadness because at the same time she was in the swimming pool and many others student looked at her and laughed to her loudly.

#### **2. Social bullying**

Social bullying, sometimes referred to as relational bullying, can occur in the form of hurting someone’s reputation and or relationships. Social bullying includes:

leaving someone out on purpose, telling other children not to be friends with someone, spreading rumors about someone, and embarrassing someone in public.

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All: (Chanting) Plug it up !



**Figure 1. Social Bullying**

The picture showed when Carrie asked her friend for help, all her friend taunted Carrie by saying the sentence “plug it up”. This happened when Carrie was in the locker room and Carrie continued to shout for help from her friend but no one helped them all keep cheering and not helping her. Instead of helping Carrie, they shouted at her. This behavior is included as social bullying, because the action all of the girls embarrassed Carrie. It made Carrie sad, and sad itself is included into low psychological well-being.

### **3. Cyber bullying**

Cyber bullying takes place over digital devices/gadgets, like cell phones, computers, and tablets. Cyber bullying can occur through SMS, text, and apps, or online in social media, forums, or gaming where people can view, participate in, or share contents. Cyberbullying includes sending, posting, or sharing negative, harmful, false, or mean content about someone else. It can include sharing personal or private information about someone else causing embarrassment or humiliation. The most common places where cyber bullying occurs are: Social media, such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter.

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All: (Chanting continues)

Chris : (recording the videos)





**Figure 2. Cyber Bullying**

The situation in the picture is when all her friends mocked Carrie and said the sentence “plug it up” and one of her friends was Chris recorded Carrie's video. This happened where Chris was recording while Carrie was asking for help with a blood-filled body running out of the bathroom, but her friends were cheering continuously. All her friend threw a bandage at Carrie and it made her sad. Images or videos are included into cyber bullying. Cyber bullying can happen anytime. It can be done publicly or privately and sometimes is only known by the target and the person doing to bullying. Carrie felt low self- esteem, anger and sadness, that is included into low psychological well-being.

#### **4. Physical bullying**

Physical bullying is a serious problem, affecting not only the bully and the victim, but also others who witness the bullying. Parents, teachers, and others concerned adults and young people should be aware of what a physical bully is and some of the ways to handle it. There are many types of negative physical interactions that can occur between young people including fighting, practical jokes, stealing, and sexual harassment.

Code : 005/CM/00:08:50

All : (Pelted with sanitary napkins)



**Figure 3. Physical Bullying**

This scene is when Carrie wanted to ask for help. In addition to cheering her friends threw pads on Carrie. Carrie was very sad, scared, because she did not know

about menstruation. Throwing an object against the person could be called physical bullying, because the action all of the girls embarrass Carrie. Feelings manifest loneliness and she evident dislike for all of friend is included into poor social adjustment.

## **Discussion**

From year to year, bullying is an issue that continues to be in the spotlight. The reason is this case increasingly prevalent along with the time. Not only done in physical form, but also through words to harassment on social media. Words indeed have power. The effects of physical bullying may be more obvious at first. Further, verbal bullying is more insidious and over long periods of time works to destroy a child's self image and self esteem. This may lead to depression, anxiety, and other problems. In some particular extreme cases, several well noted instances of teen suicide have been linked to prolonged verbal bullying of a classmate or peer. Verbal bullying should not be treated as kids simply being kids and should dealt with seriously by parents, teachers and school administrators.

Based on the result of data analysis, it showed that verbal bullying was dominant type of bullying found in *Carrie*. This kind of bullying had been done by most female characters toward Carrie by saying harsh or sarcastic words such as freak, crazy, stupid, and soon. Carrie's friends also did social bullying by embarrassing Carrie in the public places. Cyber bullying includes sending, posting or share something negative. Carrie's friend recorder a video then she posted to the youtube. The types of negative physical interaction that can occur between young people includes fighting, practical jokes, and stealing.

Throwing something on people that includes physical bullying and it was done by Carrie's friends. Those behaviors of bullying gave a big impact to the Carrie which was categorized as low psychological well-being. She felt angry, sad, annoyed, and low self- esteem. Furthermore, poor adjustment normally includes feeling of aversion toward social environment, evident through expressed dislike at school, manifest loneliness and isolation. Carrie's felt avoided by her friends. The psychological distress is considered more than low psychological well-being and poor adjustment categories and includes high levels of anxiety, depression and suicidal thinking. Unfortunately the

party situation made Carrie intimidated and depression raised the telekinetic power that caused havoc.

Based on the result of data analysis, the researcher found the types of bullying and impacts of bullying. After the researcher found it, the researcher could compare the result of this research to both previous studies found in “Bullying Portrayed in Mean Girls Movie: A Psychoanalysis” written by Sirly (2017) and “Representasi Bullying di Lingkungan Sekolah dalam Film” written by Rachmawaty (2016).

In the first previous study, it was found that dominant type of bullying is social bullying while the second previous study shows about depiction of bullying actions in the world of teenagers which is likened to jungle, which is battle where the strongest will be the winner.

## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

### **Conclusion**

The researcher found the types of bullying and impacts of bullying. The kinds of types of bullying is physical bullying, verbal bullying, social bullying, and cyber bullying. The dominant types of bullyings found was verbal bullying, because the characters in the movie was female did the bullyings using words to intimidate, insult, and call someone freak, stupid, and crazy. The kinds of impact of bullying is low psychological well-being, poor adjustment, psychological distress and physical unwellness. The dominant impacts of bullying found was low psychological well-being. In other hand, the researcher thought that this movie did not support bullying, because in the end of this movie showed every characters who did the bullying dead killed by Carrie and when Carrie was at home, she killed her mother and died crushed by the rubble of her house destroyed by her owner.

### **Suggestion**

The researcher suggests the next researchers to be more specific in analyzing the bullying using psychoanalysis approach. Moreover, the researcher suggests the next researchers to focus on analyzing psychological bullying. Finally, the researcher hopes this research can give an inspiration to the readers to continue this research on bullying using psychoanalysis approaches.

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