

# **Chapter I**

## **Introduction**

In this chapter, the writer would like to explain the background of the study, identification of the problems, research problems, objective of the study, limitation of the study, and significances of the study, which is these sub-bab for the covers in this chapter.

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Despite all the difficulties and complications that people face, including terrible traumatic events like accidents, the death of a loved one, abuse, or natural disasters, life is still an amazing phenomena. Every individual can suffer traumatic situations without any warning if they are not mentally prepared, and those occurrences can also cause people to experience trauma. The American Psychiatric Association defined trauma or traumatic neurosis as a reaction to a traumatic event, which includes both man-made and natural disasters and events that are "outside the range of usual human experience" (Caruth, 1995). That event or events could be a conflict that results in serious injury, sexual abuse, or even actual or threatened death. Trauma can affect a person directly or indirectly involved in the traumatic incident, as well as those who observe it.

Since its first development in the late nineteenth century, trauma and its theory have been studied, evaluated, and pondered. Post-World War I studies are where trauma and its theory first earned its prominence (Balaev, 2014: 4). In addition, the areas of trauma studies have developed from literary studies to

psychiatry. As a depiction of human existence, literature provides readers a number of viewpoints from which they may consider how people may react to an overwhelming event that takes the shape of an anxiety storyline in a work of fiction, a film, or a poem. According to Vickroy (2014), fictions show the various ways that trauma survivors may express themselves via their stories. It outlines the circumstances and features of the traumatic experience. Although silence often follows pain, literature or fiction in this sense provides the opportunity to read the wound and the injured. As a result, via traumatic narration, trauma in literature portrays the indescribable wound of human life.

Literature portrays an artistic creation as hyperrealist because it depicts human life as experienced by the author as a member of the society. Thus, portraying human existence in literature is inextricably linked to it. When literary works are viewed as representations of life, it is intriguing to observe what happens. Similar to how he did in his last work, the researcher in this one aims to evaluate novels that capture social concerns and the psychological effects of injustice and violence on society, particularly in Indonesia.

For a long time, most novels have been made into movies. Which one is novel by Eka Kurniawan “*Seperti Dendam, Rindu Harus Dibayar Tuntas*” or Vengeance is Mine, All Others Pay Cash which was released in Indonesia at December 2, 2021. The novel has been translated into English, French, Mandarin, German, and Arabic.

This novel witness and experience traumatic events that change their lives and the way of looking at their lives. This novel tells a story about a boy

(Ajo Kawir) who becomes impotent after being forced to witness a brutal rape done by police toward a madwoman (Rona Merah). Ajo Kawir's impotency eventually affects his whole life including his marriage life with Iteung, a girl who also experiencing trauma after being molested by her homeroom teacher.

The novel shows that the sociocultural environment can become the greatest source of trauma as well as offer the healing process for the traumatized through compassion and understanding. Through the portrayal of the characters, Eka Kurniawan reveals how pain, suffering, and traumatic experiences lead the characters to gain high self-esteem, self-knowledge, and philosophical understanding of social reality.

Traumatic feelings can have a severe impact on a person's physical and psychological health. It signifies that trauma is an occurrence that may occur as a result of losing something, such as the passing of a family member, a partner, or a close friend. Trauma can be brought on by psychological activity, but its effects are more often generated by a person's psychology. Psychological trauma does exist, though. This is the actual impact that a traumatic incident will have on a person. That effect is known as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or PTSD (Harvey, 2002:5).

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can develop following a traumatic event that threatens your safety or makes you feel helpless. PTSD develops differently from person to person. While the symptoms of PTSD most commonly develop in the hours or days following the traumatic event, it can sometimes take weeks, months, or even years before they appear.

The characters in this novel witness and experience traumatic events that alter their lives and perspectives on life. This novel is about an adolescent (Ajo Kawir) who becomes impotent after being forced to witness the brutal rape of a madwoman (Rona Merah) by police officers. Ajo Kawir's infertility eventually effects every aspect of his life, including his marriage to Iteung, a girl who is also traumatized after being molested by her homeroom teacher.

The plot of this novel develops in the traumatic context and the journey of Ajo Kawir in dealing with his impotency (trauma). the character Ajo Kawir is positioned as one of the characters with complex problems. He is known to have disorders of the genital organs that cannot function sexually. This disorder is one of the underlying causes of the conflicts and anxieties that occur in Ajo Kawir's life. It can even be said that this disturbance became one of the sources of all the problems in Ajo Kawir's life. It is known that the disorder that Ajo Kawir has suffered from since he started growing up. The period when the libidinal desire in the id is experiencing a period of psychological development Between the disturbances suffered by the Ajo Kawir figure and childhood incidents which can be considered as bad events, both have a close relationship. It can even be said that the disorder also has an impact on personality Come on Kawir. these disturbances become a sort of entrance into the cavern of reality that surrounds him. The conflict, the characters involved, the events experienced by the character Ajo Kawir, the behavior displayed by the character Ajo Kawir, seems to be the tail of a childhood incident which unconsciously affects the psychological condition of the character Ajo Kawir.

The novel demonstrates that the sociocultural environment can be the greatest cause of trauma as well as a source of compassion and understanding for the traumatized. Through the depiction of the characters, Eka Kurniawan demonstrates how pain, suffering, and traumatic experiences lead the characters to develop a strong sense of self-worth, self-awareness, and a philosophical comprehension of social reality.

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theory about the PTSD that Ajo Kawir's faced which is to find out the symptoms such as intrusive symptoms, avoidance symptoms and arousal symptoms, and the structural novel writer using structural factual Robert Stanton (2012:21) that will be described by plot the caused Ajo Kawir experience his PTSD. Research data obtained by using primary data and secondary data. Primary data consists of reading and note-taking techniques, while secondary data consists of library research techniques. The instrument used in the study was the writer herself, namely the writer as the perpetrator of all research activities.

### **1.2 Identification of the Problems**

Several problems that can be researched related to the psychological trauma of the main character in the novel "*Seperti Dendam, Rindu Harus Dibayar Tuntas*" by Eka Kurniawan can be identified as the symptoms of the trauma of the character Ajo Kawir, the efforts made by Ajo Kawir in the novel "*Seperti Dendam, Rindu Harus Dibayar Tuntas*." Eka Kurniawan's work in the PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) approach.

### **1.3 Research Problems**

1. How does the plot of Kurniawan's novel "*Seperti Dendam, Rindu Harus Dibayar Tuntas*"
2. How is the portrayal of post-traumatic stress disorder experienced by the main character in Kurniawan's "*Seperti Dendam, Rindu Harus Dibayar Tuntas*"

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

Since the analysis of this thesis deals with the plot of the novel and the

portrayal of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) the main character “Ajo Kawir” in novel “*Seperti Dendam, Rindu Harus Dibayar Tuntas*” by Eka so the objective of study are:

1. To describe the plot of Kurniawan’s Novel *Seperti Dendam, Rindu Harus Dibayar Tuntas*.
2. To describe the portrayal of post-traumatic stress disorder experienced by the main character in Kurniawan’s “*Seperti Dendam, Rindu Harus Dibayar Tuntas*”.

#### **1.4 Limitations of the Study**

There are many areas and cases for the analysis of Eka “*Seperti Dendam, Rindu Harus Dibayar Tuntas*”, but the researcher only focuses on one case that is about Ajo Kawir’s post traumatic stress disorder suffered who is one of the main characters in this novel. It uses psychological approach that showing post traumatic stress disorder included psychological problem. However, this research is only concentrated on two parts, such as the plot in Kurniawan’s novel “*Seperti Dendam, Rindu harus Dibayar Tuntas*”, and by the portrayal of post-traumatic stress disorder in according to the symptoms of PTSD.

#### **1.6 Significances of the Study**

This research is anticipated to yield useful and helpful information for the reader, which will be used to support the story in “*Seperti Dendam, Rindu Harus Dibayar Tuntas*” by Eka Kurniawan. This study will help readers understand post-traumatic stress disorder, which is experienced by the novel's primary

characters. Then, this study will aid readers in their understanding of psychological approach.

As a result of this research, it is hoped that it will inspire other scholars to conduct additional research on the psychology of literary works. We cannot deny the existence of a literary work due to the author's psychology. Moreover, to the extent feasible, this study will encourage the reader to assist those with post-traumatic stress disorder in their recovery.