

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Switchover is an Indonesian Wattpad series written by an account called "Mikeindialima2". This series has been read 28.6 million times and voted 1.29 million times (data per July 27, 2024). This series was also successfully made into a printed book after receiving attention from the publisher Black Swan books and was finally adapted again into a web series by Screenplay Films with the same title on January 7, 2023. Switchover is the first book in the tetralogy "The Over Series", which consists of Switchover, Crossover, Thunder, and It's Over, which is still in the process of being written. Switchover is a young adult genre with a rather dark series, different from teenage fiction in general.

In general, Switchover tells the story of Anna, a girl who experiences a change in personality after meeting the leader of the Griffin gang named Leo. Anna's life, whose life was bright, suddenly turned dark after getting to know Leo. Like men who inherit masculine traits, Leo is described as a man who is strong, active, superior, powerful, tough and plays a role in society. Characters like this often appear in Wattpad stories that the researcher has read. Masculine men are usually depicted as strong, brave, leaders, and dominant and have large physiques. This gender construction occurs continuously and repeatedly, so that the concept of gender becomes as if it is something that is absolute and definitely true and cannot change (Nasiti, 2018). Therefore, many men are

obsessed with wanting to always look masculine but behave arrogantly, like to fight, get emotional easily and easily resort to physical violence if problems arise.

Things like this are still considered to prove how masculine a man is, as if all problems can be solved with violence, even though that is not true. However, society still considers this normal for men, as if being considered a man is synonymous with violence. If it's not rude, it's not masculine. Sometimes, in order to maintain their masculine nature, men have a high level of pride in not doing things that deviate from the norms of masculinity. Where men must not cry, men must be strong and not weak. In fact, crying is a normal way to express emotions. However, in society which still adheres to patriarchal constructions, men crying is often associated as a form of weakness or tenderness that only women can do. These treatments are considered toxic masculinity without realizing it.

Masculine is a positive characteristic for men. However, it becomes toxic when men are required to have and demonstrate masculinity in order to avoid the stigma that men are weak. This shows that toxic masculinity arises from stigma that is formed culturally and socially in society. Switchover series emphasizes that men must always be strong. This makes men who have flaws try to cover them up in every way to still look manly. Leo's character exemplifies this with the problems that occur in his life. Leo considers emotions to be a weak thing. As a result, he has the idea that the only emotion that can be shown or displayed is anger. In the end, this anger is expressed negatively

through violence. Not to mention, his position as head of the Griffin gang requires that the man must not be weak, he must be good at fighting and able to defend himself.

Toxic masculinity is as a constellation of characteristics that encourage misogyny, homophobia, greed, and violent domination (Kupers, 2001). From this explanation it can be concluded that men with toxic masculinity are considered dangerous, both for the men themselves and the community around them, especially for women who are victims of toxic masculinity behavior. The depiction of Leo's character, apart from always prioritizing violence when faced with problems, also considers women as despicable creatures. Leo often calls women lowly names, he does this without reason. In fact, if his wish is not achieved, he will not hesitate to hurt the woman with violence. It is as if violence against women can be considered something that can be forgiven because there is a perception that women are incapable. These symptoms show toxic masculinity, namely the struggle to gain recognition of a man's complete humanity as a strong individual. To find out Leo's motives for being toxic like that, apart from analyzing the form of toxic masculinity, researchers will also analyze the factors that underlie the emergence of this toxic masculinity attitude.

Based on the description above, the researcher is interested in conducting research with the title: "Toxic Masculinity Represented in *Switchover* an Indonesian Wattpad Series." The qualitative technique was used in this study. To sustain the data, the researcher uses the toxic masculinity theory

by Terry A Kupers. This theory was chosen because this theory contains elements that can analyze problem in this object. Kupers believes that toxic masculinity as a constellation of characteristics that encourage misogyny, homophobia, greed, and violent domination. Through this theory, the researcher would be able to analyze what are the forms of toxic masculinity represented by Leo in Switchover. Furthermore, the researcher also uses the theory of planned behavior by Icek Ajzen. Theory of planned behavior is a theory that explains the causes of the emergence of intentions of someone's behavior. Intention to behave determined by three main determinants, namely attitude, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control. The aim of this theory is to discover the influences of motivation on behavior that are not under the individual's own control or will. Through this theory, the researchers would be able to analyze what are the factors that underlie toxic masculinity behavior in Leo Character.

1.2 Identification of the Problems

As mentioned in the research background above, Switchover series depicts the nature of toxic masculinity in its characters. The character faces demands from the surrounding environment to always be strong and not weak. The characters don't even have the freedom to reflect on their feelings about things. The only feeling that can be shown is anger. Where this anger leads to violence against both men and women. Therefore, this research focuses on analyzing the toxic masculinity traits that are shown by the characters in their daily lives. And to find out what are the factors that underlie that toxic masculinity traits.

1.3 Limitation of the Study

The focus of this research is on the main male character of Switchover. The study is concentrated on examining the process of toxic masculinity contained in the series and the factors that emerges that toxic traits. This is analyzed through narrative text and dialogue that appears in the Switchover series. This research uses toxic masculinity theory by Terry A Kupers and theory of planned behavior by Icek Azjen.

1.4 Research Problems

1. What are the forms of toxic masculinity represented by Leo in Switchover based on toxic masculinity theory by Terry Kupers?
2. What are the factors that underlie toxic masculinity behavior in Leo Character based on theory of planned behavior by Icek Ajzen?

1.5 Objectives of the Study

1. To discover the forms of toxic masculinity represented by Leo in Switchover based on toxic masculinity theory by Terry Kupers.
2. To discover the factors that underlie toxic masculinity behavior in Leo Character based on theory of planned behavior by Icek Ajzen.

1.6 Significance of the Study

1. Theoretical benefits
 - a. The outcome of this study is expected to increase knowledge regarding literary studies that utilize phenomenological theory.

- b. As a basis for developing broader research on theory of planned behaviour in literary works.

2. Practical benefits

- a. The results of this study can be used to help readers to better understand the content of the stories in the Switchover series, especially the structure character personality in the study of literary sociology.
- b. The results of this study can be used to increase insight and serve as a reference for readers to conduct research in the field of literature, especially novels with a sociological review of literature.