ABSTRACT

Indah Rizki Chairani, Registration Number 2203520013, Trauma Of The Main Character In The Serial Movie Dahmer - Monster: Jeffrey Dahmer Story, English Literature Program, English and Literature Department Universitas Negeri Medan, A Thesis, 2024.

This study aimed to analyze the portrayal of trauma and its psychological impact on the main character, Jeffrey Dahmer, in the series "Dahmer – Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story." Utilizing a descriptive qualitative approach, data were collected through a detailed analysis of the series' script, focusing on dialogues and scenes that highlighted Dahmer's traumatic background and psychological state. The study employed Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory and the American Psychiatric Association's framework on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) to dissect the kinds of trauma Dahmer experienced, how he processed these traumas, and why he reacted as he did. The findings revealed several key aspects: (1) Dahmer's traumatic experiences were categorized as avoidance behaviors (39%), mood and cognitive changes (36%), and increased arousal and reactivity (25%), with these symptoms intensifying in adulthood to 43.0%, 34.2%, and 22.8%, respectively. (2) Throughout his life, Dahmer experienced trauma predominantly through the ego's management, which accounted for 57.1% in childhood and teenage years and 45.6% in adulthood, reflecting his ongoing struggle to balance inner drives and societal expectations. The id's influence grew in adulthood, accounting for 35.4%, highlighting increased impulsive behavior. (3) Dahmer's responses were deeply influenced by his psychological vulnerabilities, marked by a dominant ego and id, and a weakened superego. This research contributed to understanding psychological trauma in literary works and had practical implications for fostering empathy and better interactions with trauma survivors.

Keywords: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Psychoanalysis, Trauma.