

THE CRUELTY IN SCHOOL COMMUNITY IN JAY ASHER'S *THIRTEEN REASONS WHY*

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Abstract : The purpose of this research is to reveal the cruelty in school community in the novel *Thirteen Reasons Why*. The writers use qualitative research method. In conducting this research, the authors collected data into two categories. Primary sources and secondary sources, primary sources are the novels themselves, by Jay Asher's *Thirteen Reasons Why* novels and secondary sources are other related documents such as related books, dictionaries, internet browsing, other literary works and sources that support the analysis and to analyze data, the authors using an objective approach. The results of this study indicate the Jay Asher's *Thirteen Reasons Why* novel is arguing about the cruelty. The cruelty experienced by the main character is sexual harassment and rumours that the main character is a prostitute. The cause of cruelty is disappointment and feeling persecuted. In the world of education; teachers must teach students that cruelty is bad and should not be done. Wherefore, the teacher can explain consequence of cruelty that must be received by people who commit cruelty.

Keywords : *The Cruelty in School Community, Thirteen Reasons Why*

Abstrak : Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengungkapkan kekejaman dalam komunitas sekolah dalam novel *Thirteen Reasons Why*. Para penulis menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif. Dalam melakukan penelitian ini, para penulis mengumpulkan data menjadi dua kategori. Sumber primer dan sumber sekunder, sumber primer adalah novel itu sendiri, oleh novel *Jay Asher's Thirteen Reasons Why* dan sumber sekunder adalah dokumen terkait lainnya seperti buku terkait, kamus, penjelajahan internet, karya sastra lainnya dan sumber yang mendukung analisis dan untuk menganalisis data, penulis menggunakan pendekatan objektif. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan novel *Jay Asher's Thirteen Reasons Why* berdebat tentang kekejaman. Kekejaman yang dialami oleh karakter utama adalah pelecehan seksual dan desas-desus bahwa karakter utamanya adalah seorang pelacur. Penyebab kekejaman adalah kekecewaan dan perasaan teraniaya. Dalam dunia pendidikan; Guru harus mengajarkan siswa bahwa kekejaman itu buruk dan tidak boleh dilakukan. Karenanya, guru dapat menjelaskan konsekuensi kekejaman yang harus diterima oleh orang-orang yang melakukan kekejaman.

Kata Kunci : *Kekejaman dalam Komunitas Sekolah, Tiga Belas Alasan Mengapa*

INTRODUCTION

Education is a process of learning knowledge and skills that is aimed at the learning process to students, in order to make understanding of something and make it critical student in thinking.

Sifuna and Otiende said that "*Education as an organized and sustained instruction meant to transmit a variety of knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes necessary for the daily activities in life. Education is a conscious and planned effort to create*

an atmosphere of learning and learning process so that students actively develop their potential to have spiritual strength, self control, personality, intelligence, noble character and skills needed by themselves, society, nation and country”(1).

Sabudu states that *“Literature is reflection of human life whether in the society or in their private life, every phenomenon that found in the society usually reflects in the literary works such as poem, novel, drama or short story” (1).*

A literary work is an idea or feeling of writer expressed through his literary work. As stated by Ceisy Nita Wuntu, Journal of Transnational American Studies,

“A literary work which has affective nature is a significant power to touch the deepest sense that can produce perfect consciousness as a form generator of human consciousness”. (4)

Novel is narrative prose that includes a story of human beings and has some moral values constructed by the elements of the novel. According to Maru:

“novel is story regarding remarkable event or occurrence of life of someone is in it met by processing of soul altering someone chance road, it means someone who is narrated in the novel experience of life of problem in details, good in the form of grief, adventure, struggle, which is on finally the figure experience of change which enough base, what experienced of that figure basically represents of top from all distortion live and life which is happened”. (100)

In the world of education, the school community is very important, because education is very influential, and important in the lives of all people. In human life there are many communities, such as religious communities, social communities, ecosystem communities etc. In this study the writers choose to analyze about the cruelty in a school community, The *Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher's

which is a novel that telling readers about Cruelty in a school community.

Maulana Hassan Wadong says that *“Cruelty is an un authorized behavior or a wrong treatment. Cruelty can be interpreted as an act that causes injury or the demise of others and causing physical damage to others. the cruelty that resulted in the breakdown was cruelty that was against the law. Cruelty can be said a crime”(36).*

A school community is a community consisting of several groups. In the community there are positive and negative things, but in the mind set of society and parents that in the school community there are only positive values, such as quality education, respect, motivation, interaction with each other. but in reality the community or school group is different from the expectations of the community and parents. In Asher's *Thirteen Reason Why*, the writers analyzes cruelty in the school community, which includes friends, teachers, and even girlfriends of victims of cruelty. In the community or group there are negative things such as free sex, social trauma, suicide, intimidation, bullying, etc.

Statement of the Problem

Cruelty in *Thirteen Reasons Why* explained in Jay Asher's is about bullying, terror, free sex and harassment, where the perpetrators of the cruelty are friends, boyfriend, and teachers. They are not responsible and do not care about the victims who experienced the cruelty, which ultimately resulted in the victim committing suicide in his own house.

The reality of the school community is different from the expectations of the society and parents. School community whose expectations are of positive value by the society and parents, but instead, the fact of school community does something negative.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Cruelty

Cruelty can be defined as the actions taken by one individual against another person which results in physical and mental disorders. Cruelty against children is any form of physical and or emotional abuse, sexual harassment, neglect or commercial exploitation or that otherwise results in real or potential disruption to the development of health, and the survival of children or their dignity in the context of responsible relationships, trust, or power. Cruelty in school can be done by anyone, from school principals, teachers, school supervisors, employees, or between students. Cruelty is something that is done deliberately and inflicts a great loss on others, cruelty can also result in a person suffering prolonged pain and dying.

Forms of cruelty that occur within the school community include beating with bare hands, or blunt objects, pinching, slapping, strangling, being scolded with threats of cruelty, bullying, insults, sexual harassment and many other acts of cruelty.

Cruelty that occurs in the school community is not only physical cruelty but also psychological cruelty such as discrimination against students which results in students experiencing mental disorders, and suicide. Saraswati said that

“Cruelty is a form of action taken against another party, whether committed by an individual or more than one person, which can be discussed with another party. Cruelty can occur in two forms, namely physical cruelty that resolves death, and psychological cruelty that does not result in physical casualties, but results in trauma extend the victims themselves”(2008).

Cruelty is one of the actions committed by a person or group. There are a great deal of cruelty, such as sexual harassment, bully, humiliation, slapping. Someone who is experienced cruelty will surely have a bad

impact on his life. A person or group that commits cruelty is those who have no heart, are not responsible and feel themselves to be the most correct.

School Community

Soebagio Atmodiwiro said that *“a school is an institution or organization that is given the authority to regulate learning activities. As a school organization has certain requirements. School is an institution or place of learning such as reading, writing and learning to behave well. Schools are also an integral part of society dealing with the real conditions that exist in society today. School is a system of social interaction consisting of organizations organic”* (37).

The situation that occurs in the school community in Jay Asher's *Thirteen Reasons Why* is very bad state of the school community, where students in this school community do bad things, where there is casual sex, social trauma, suicide, intimidation, bullying, etc. in society and parents in the school community, there are many positive values, such as quality education, polite, respectful, motivating, interacting with each other. etc. the reality of the school community is different from the expectations of the community and parents.

Positive Values

The Young Career Community, where this community is an additional study for students who are in the school, who teach about proverbs and better concepts in composing words. examples such as the authorship of Novels, the making of poems, magazines etc.

G. Glickman said that *“Students need to achieve the ability to work actively with problems, ideas, materials and other people as they learn skills and content. They should have an escalating degree of choices, both as individuals and groups, within the parameters*

provided by the teacher. The students are responsible to their peers, teachers, parents, and school community, using educational time purposefully, intelligently, and productively. They should have the ability to collaborate with one another, teachers, parents and other community members. Students should know how to make their learning a contribution to their community. They need to be able to assume escalating responsibilities for securing resources and finding places where they can apply and further their learning. Demonstrating what they know and can do in public settings and receive public feedback is important for them to be able to do. Lastly, the students should be able to work together and learn from another at a pace that challenges all” (2004).

Negative Values

Sejiwa said that *“Nowadays, bullying is a term that is already familiar to Indonesian people. Bullying is an act of using power to hurt someone or a group of people both verbally, physically, and psychologically so that the victim feels depressed, traumatized, and helpless. Bullying is often referred to as bullying. A bully doesn't know gender or age. In fact, bullying has often happened at school and is done by teenagers” (2008).*

Rauf said that *“One of juvenile delinquency which became its own topic is free sex. Even free sex outside of marriage performed by teenagers (students and students) can be said is not a mischief anymore, but something natural and has become a habit. Free sex among teens at Indonesia is currently very alarming”(2008).*

- **Previous Studies**

P. Lidya Gabriella Bethly Rismauli (2018): *“The Impact of Bullying on Hannah Baker’s Behavior in Jay Asher’s thirteen reasons why”*. This Research has investigated about the impact bullying of the main character Hannah Baker’s, but my

research not about that the impact bullying, but Cruelty in a School Community in Jay Asher’s thirteen reasons why.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

In doing this research, the writers use qualitative design which is present in descriptive-narrative form. It is the most suitable method in analyzing novel by sharing data in the form of word. This research will be presented in narrative research. The collect data as many possible from the novel itself.. So this research is classified as a qualitative research. According to Bodgan and Biklen :

“Qualitative research is descriptive, the data collected in the form of words of picture rather than numbers, the written results of the research contain quotations from the data to illustrate and substantiate the presentation” (28).

Data Collection

The writers collect the data based on two sources. The primary source ‘data are taken from the novel since it is consider as primary source and the secondary source are some books, article, and data from internet that related to the story including to the author biography

Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the writers use the objective approach as pointed out by Abrams in his book *The Mirror and The Lamp*:

“Objective approach regards the work of art in solution from all this external points of reference, analysis it as a self-sufficient entity constituted by its part in their internal relations and set out to judge it solely by oriental to its own mode being” (26).

The statement above means that objective approach leads the writers to focus on the work itself by considering some intrinsic elements such as plot, character, theme, and setting. It then leads to study the interrelationship of that elements. It can not be separated because it becomes a united element that support each other.

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

Description of Cruelty

Suyanto & Hariadi said that *“Cruelty can be described as one bad thing in everyone's life. In everyone's life, cruelty is interpreted as something very bad or not good. because in cruelty there are things that damage and endanger the lives of others. Theoretically, cruelty against children can be defined as incidents of physical, mental or sexual injury that are generally committed by people who have responsibility for the problem. According to the welfare of the child. The act of injury is indicated by losses and threats to the health and welfare of children” (13).*

Martono said that *“Cruelty is defined as illegal behavior or misconduct, it can also be interpreted as an act that causes or causes injury or other charcoal death and causes physical injury to the person receiving cruelty. Cruelty that results in physical cruelty against others must be held accountable and punished, because such cruelty can be considered a crime. Cruelty is one of the social problems that exist in modern society. In general, Cruelty is*

defined as actions taken by individuals against other individuals that result in physical or mental disorders” (38).

There are four characteristics of cruelty that we can find, that is; First, open cruelty, that is cruelty that can be seen as a fight, secondly closed cruelty, that is hidden cruelty or not carried out direct but is like harassing. Third, aggressive cruelty, that is cruelty not to get protection but to get something. Fourth, defensive cruelty, that is cruelty committed as an act of self-protection.

Bullying cruelty is one of the cruelty that can be found in Jay Asher's *Thirteen Reasons Why*, where it is explained that the main character gets bullying from his friends. Bullying is included in aggressive violence, namely violence not to get protection but to get something.

Nurani said that *“There are several forms of cruelty that are generally experienced by students, including physical cruelty, which is a form of cruelty that causes injuries to students, such as being hit and mistreated. In addition, psychological cruelty is emotional cruelty that is carried out by insulting, harassing, criticizing or saying words that hurt feelings, hurt self-esteem, reduce self-confidence, make people feel humiliated, small, weak, ugly, useless and helpless” (86).*

The cruelty described by Jay Asher in the novel *Thirteen Reasons Why* is physical, mental, sexual, bullying and terror. The cruelty occurred in the school environment, the cruelty in the school environment were very bad for those who were victims of these cruelty, which in the end the cruelty that the victim received experiences physical and mental disorders.

Cruelty that Happened to the Main Character in the Novel *Thirteen Reasons Why*

Cruelty is one of the things that is done intentionally or unintentionally. The cruelty often occurs in everyone from children to adults, depending on how cruelty they receive. In Jay Asher's *Thirteen Reasons Why* Jay writes about the cruelty received by the main character. The main character is a beautiful, kind and very popular girl in her new school, so many love Her.

In Jay Asher's *Thirteen reasons why*, the main character experiences a lot of cruelty, such as bullying, terror, harassment etc. it really affects the mental of the main character. the following is the cruelty received by the main character; Hannah Baker is a character in Jay Asher's *Thirteen Reasons why* as well as a victim of her new school cruelty. Have defined education as an organized and sustained instruction meant to transmit a variety of knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes necessary for the daily activities in lid

Hannah Baker is first cruelty began with rumours, where the rumours say that Hannah Baker is a prostitute. Hannah Baker did not know that the rumours were already widespread in her school. After Hannah found out about the rumours Hannah became embarrassed to meet everyone in her school. After the rumours spread, there were cruelties that embarrassed Hannah Baker and couldn't afford to go to school. After rumours spread that Hannah was a prostitute, a WHO IS HOT / WHO IS NOT list began to emerge, which explained about beautiful buttocks, and one that was included in the list was Hannah Baker. Other cruelty in the form of sexual harassment is when Hannah received by her theme. Also where Hannah Baker was

laughed at by her friends because of the poetry that Hannah Baker wrote.

The Cause of Cruelty

Every person has his/her way to complete every problem, and there are various options that they chose to complete the problem. When they are not find a way out. death became the only way for The Main Character to get out of everything Her going through. cruelty is an option even though cruelty has had a bad impact for a long time.

Bullying Cruelty to the Main Character

Bullying is the act of using power to hurt a person or group of people either verbally, physically or psychologically so that the victim feels depressed, traumatized, and helpless. Cruelty is one thing that is not very good for everyone, especially for students. victims of cruelty in the novel *Thirteen Reasons why* is the main character where this main character received cruelty from his friends and boyfriends, it can be seen in the quote below.

I know what you are thinking. Hannah Baker is a slut. Definitely beats my first kiss. Seven grade, Andrea Williams, behind the gym after school. She came over to my table at lunch, whispered the proposition in my ear, and I had a hard-on for the rest of the day. When the kiss was over, three strawberry-lip-gloss seconds later, she turned and ran away. I peeked around the gym and watched two of her friends each hand her a five-dollar bill. I could not believe it! My lips were a ten-dollar bet. I can see Justin huddled among his friends at school. I remember Hannah walking by, and the whole group stopped talking. They averted their eyes. And when she passed,

they starting laughing. Then, later, I heard about her getting felt up at the rocket slide an she was so new to school that the rumors over shadowe everything else I knew aboutd her. (Jay Asher.23-29)

Sexual Cruelty on the Main Character

Sexual harassment is an unwanted sexual act, a sexual act that makes a person feel offended, humiliated and intimidated. On the night of the party Bryce and Courtney advised Hannah to cool her back in the bath and relax, apparently harassing her. Hannah wanted to sit down but She saw Her breasts through her wet bra, then she went back into the bath Then Bryce also got into the bath, then Bryce leaned her shoulder (Main Character), Courtney who opened her eyes saw Bryce and Main Character then closed her eyes again. And then Bryce touched Main Character stomach, and Bryce stuck his finger into Main Character bra.

But when I pushed my back against the tub an sat up to coolmy upper body, I could see my breasts throught my wet bra. So, I slid back down .and Bryce slit ofer slowly accorss the under water bench. And his soulder rested against my mine.Couertney open her eyes, look at us, then shut them again. Courtney his pered that I was not at the party, but you did not seen to care. Instead, you fingertis touched the outside of my thigh. You are thumb touched the bottom of my bra and you pingky touched the top of my under wear. You pulled you are fingers together and rubbet slow, fuul circles around my stomach. "feels nice" you said. I felt a shift in the water an opened my eyes for one brief secon. Courtney was walking away.you star kissing my shoulder, my neck sliding you are fingers in an out. (Jay Aher's 262-265)

The Impact of Cruelty

Everyone must have experienced the impact of their own actions and also the impact of the cruelty that the victim received. they commit atrocities without thinking. they do not think about the consequences they will face, including what will happen to the victims of these atrocities.

The Impact of Cruelty that Happened to the Main Character

Everyone has his/her own way of solving each problem, and there are a variety of options they choose to solve the problem. When they don't find a way out. death became the only way for main character to get out of everything Her was going through. Cruelty experienced to the main character . Her did not even have friends or companions. Her finally intends to share everything she has experienced with her counseling teacher, Mr. Porter. Mr. Porter who is an English teacher in Hannah's class as well as a counseling teacher, Hermeets Mr. Porter to tell him everything, tell him about what happened and what happened. but he did not know where to start, and he apologized to his teacher and said that he wanted to quit his life, and he told of all the things he had experienced. In the end the main character thought of committing suicide, because of all that he had. Thinking a lot about how to commit suicide, and she hopes She will die, because She already feels insignificant. in the end She chose to make it all like an accident. it can be seen in the quote below.

Our English teacher, but also the guidance counselor for students with last name A through G. Hannah Baker's guiance counselor. I do not know where

to begin. I mean, I kind of do. But there is so much and I do not know to sum it all up. What about your friends? You are going to have define "friends" if you want an answer t that question. Do not tell me you do not have friends, Hannah. I see you in the halls. Seriously, I need a definition. How do you know what a friend is?. Someone you can turn to when.. then I do not have any. That is why I am here, is not it?. I am turning toyou. I guess I do not know . I am not sure what I am expecting. I need to stop. (Jay Asher, 270)

The next day the main character, goes to the post office to send the tapes that she has recorded, to friend she likes. and on the tape there is a reasons whythe main character commits suicide.

Tomorrow I am getting up, I am getting dressed, an I am walking to the post office. There, I will mail a bunch of tapes to Justin Foley. An after that, there is no turning back. I will go to school, too late for first period, and we will have one last day together. The only difference being that I will know it is the last day.I thought about it. Okay , I will say it. I thought about suicide. The anger, the blame, it is all gone. Her mind is made up. The word is not a struggle for her anymore. After everything I have talked about on these tapes, everything that occured, I thought about suicide. Usually it was just a passing thought. I wish I would die. I have thought those words many times. But it is a hard thing to say out loud. It is even scarier to feel you might mean it. But sometimes I took things further and wondered if there was anything in the house I could use. A gun? No. We never owned one. And would not know where to get one. What about hanging? Well, what would I use? Where would I do it? And even if I knew what and where, I could never get beyond the visual of someone finding me-swinging-inches from the floor. I could not do that to Mom and Dad. So how did they find you? I have heard so many rumors. It bacame a sick sort of game, imagining ways to kill myself. And there are some pretty weir and creative

ways. You took pills. That, we all know. Some say you passed out an drowned in a bathtub fullof water.(Jay Asher,253-254).

CONCLUSION

After analyzing this novel, the cruelty in school that Jay Asher describes is very serious cruelty. Cruelty that the main character received was cruelty that really attracted the attention of many people the author finds that the cruelty in the novel *Thirteen Reasons Why* is a serious problem that can be in the life of the main character. Cruelty that started from the spread of rumours that the main character was a prostitute, these rumours spread so fast that one school found out. Because of these rumours, it made the main character embarrassed to go to school especially to meet his friends. After what happened the main character got sexually harassed by her own friend. Where the main character is bathing in the bath and his friend approaches the' main character and does something bad.

The main character starts to get stressed with the cruelty she experiences, so that the main character hurts, feels stressed and is no longer able to because the main character lives in disappointment and fear, finally the main character commits suicide by drinking a pill in his own house. It is important to discuss cruelty because cruelty is not a good thing, as well as to raise awareness that cruelty against others will result in mental deficiency and self-distrust.

Finally, the writers hope this research can be a contribution to the field of education and to our department especially in study of literature.

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