

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Many of us define love as an abstract feeling that is difficult to understand validly. Lately, there have been numerous opinions and theories for years among scholars that have tried to define this multidimensional concept called 'love' (Davies, 2001). Some relate it to a person's perspective, which usually comes from external influences to certain beliefs or religions, such as the social environment and culture. Meanwhile, others argue that the definition of a person's 'love' is associated with internal influences that come from the perspective and behaviour related to that person's psychological state. It is so because some of them believed that 'love' feeling considered as stimulant drugs, passionate causes, and manipulative states that can induce powerful changes in our brain, but none so enduringly reliable (Liebowitz, 1990) as long as our feelings that we felt are valid. As Raffagnino and Puddu (2018) have stated, 'love' is a fundamental feeling in people's lives, and it is a complicated emotion that takes on many forms in different situations. They both believed that love has a significant impact or role that stimulates human health, especially in the scope of psychology.

Most modern scholars nowadays believe that a more appropriate definition of 'love' is to discuss it in the scope of psychology because it is dominantly related to human emotional feelings and more defined by paying attention to the behaviour of an individual psychologically and ideology about love that believed by someone (Neto, 2001). Both men and women would interpret their emotional feelings, especially the 'love' one, as a whole perspective based on the sensations that they have experienced before. The experiences here refer to the several factors that caused them to feel these sensations; it can be due to the

individual's background, a psychological state that is felt at that time or happened in his past, and the perspective that the individual has beliefs. Those factors could be similar or completely different in every individual depending on how they started assuming their 'love' perspective and showed to others; it can be positive or negative (Hatfield and Rapson, 1985, in Hatfield and Sprecher, 1986). This feeling of love is just like other types of emotion that can exist because there is a synchronization between the mind and the act shown by the human body itself, manifested into the reaction that we called as behaviour.

To get deeper on this matter, human behaviour, Sarwono (2019), in his book titled *Pengantar Psikologi Umum* or 'The Introduction to General Psychology,' had explained scientifically that human's behaviour differs into two types, it is called Overt and Covert behaviour. These two types of behaviour certainly have differences influenced by the surrounding environment or the place where they are blended in, so that shown actions as the outputs of these behaviours will also be different for each human being. Overt (open) behaviour is human behaviour that can be observed directly through the five senses, such as running, eating, sitting, walking, *et cetera*. Meanwhile, covert (close) behaviour is indirectly known by our sight because it is abstract and can only be seen using specific tools or methods, such as thinking, dreaming, fantasizing, and feeling certain emotions that are abstract. In analyzing a person's psyche, understanding the scope and background of that person's behaviour becomes very important to determine how the subject experiences the psychological state through an event. Both men and women could have the same psychological state, affecting their own personalities, mainly while growing up to adult even though they are in similar scopes or dissimilar either.

Inherently, we would start to feel emotions as a stimulant from what we have experienced and then do something as our response to what we have felt inside. Society will start to assess and cope it into a perception about what we have done and behave (Pavlov,

in Sarwono, 2019). So, it is reasonable for us to realize that every movement or response that we show to others is also part of our behaviour based on our feelings inside. Also, as part of society, we need to respect others' feelings to maintain good social relationships by having no bad influence on others' behaviour and psychological condition. These two respectful attitudes are closely related to the feeling of 'love' and emphasize the methods used to express love feelings towards an individual. For instance, the method used here depends on how the individual responds and his perspective on the idea of love itself. Most of the time, people are confused about responding to it according to their actual feelings. At the same time, this emotional feeling was already connected with us and cannot be detached from it as it purely exists in human traits.

We should know in common that not everyone can easily express what he feels to others through words, some of them through the acts or attitudes shown. Although there must be those who show it through words only, the emotions are not infrequently involved. Men and women will also be concerned about their capacities and senses while showing their feelings and behaving in a special relationship, which refers to a love relationship as a couple, parents, or even social human beings (Parsons, in Chodorow, 1978). Whether through words or actions, the importance of expressing our love feelings would give a chance for everyone to make other people understand the experienced conditions psychologically and how an individual interprets his feeling of 'love.' Furthermore, it also helped those who want to start to have a romantic love relationship. Farber (1980, in Hatfield and Sprecher, 1986) has observed that a romantic love relationship is essentially a phenomenon common in the adolescent period. He also points out that this adolescence is the first time humans start to know about 'love' as the powerful feelings and the differences between passionate love and intimate feelings even though just a little. Along with the time, this adolescent would get more knowledge about this romantic and passionate love relationship when they are adults,

and it is affecting their perspective towards 'love' as they realized it could change their behaviour.

This changing behaviour unconsciously influences people in dealing with love feelings in a particular way, and it makes them not aware of the formation of an ego or a desire to take a role in a current love relationship. The ego in question can be in words spoken to the intended partner or person or actions that usually come from psychological behaviour either consciously or subconsciously. Not only ego, these reactions or responses ultimately also bring up a desire or different perspective for someone who is feeling a stimulus in the form of feelings of love that exist in a loving couple. Several factors influence the emergence of the desire to take a role in this love relationship, such as the intimacy and affection created and a decision to commit both parties (Raffagnino, 2018). Therefore, we need to understand that it usually happens when an individual's respective behaviour shows their love feelings according to the perception of love that they believe in, regardless of whether they are male or female.

Throughout the years, based on sex, the relationship between gender and such personality, especially in love relationships, has become a stigma in society that tends to be harmful to both sexes and potentially distracts society's attention (Weis, 2006). We may often hear a statement stating that women are very different in responding to a particular situation, including romantic love relationships. This statement states that women will always prioritize their hearts over their minds in response to love circumstances. Women are valued as weak and naïve just because they frequently respond by relying on their hearts or feelings, while men are being normalized for prioritizing logical mind only or less of heart in all aspects of situations, especially as a loving couple. Their psychological conditions also tend to be dependent because they have a sharper will to nurture and care for children and others than men. Unluckily, society is treating this dependent behaviour as

a weak trait and passive side that is attached to the women's personality, unlike men who constructed as genders who have active, aggressive behaviour, and should not have traits or personalities like those of women (Whiting and Edwards, 1988, in Aini, 2021).

Suppose such stigma persists in society's mindset, it brought us to the position of women that may be weakened and trigger the development of the patriarchal system continuously, which originates from trivial thoughts such as the case mentioned above. Moreover, the stigma is more incoherent when men who only rely on the logical mind in a romantic relationship are considered a justification in society (Shortall, 2013). This phenomenon nowadays is considered that society has failed to understand and evaluate others' mental issues and ruled out the importance of respecting any behaviour shown by a person, whether they are male or female. It also seems like society nowadays wants to limit how men and women should behave in any form of relationship. On the other hand, it is a reluctant acceptance for males and females who should live in the unfairness of not getting their freedom to behave because society still has a constructed judgment. Their emotions are valid to what kind of behaviours they want to expose. Here is why we, as part of society, should understand first that the love perspective of an individual depends on the shown behaviour and attitude towards love partner, and it was not defined our true personality validly if society starts to do a valuation on us.

Changes in a person's behaviour and psychological condition when in a romantic relationship are also important things for the public to know (Fenney & Noller, 2004), and it is normal to be experiencing. Anyone can show their behaviour and actions based on their heart, mind, or both without the need to pay attention to an individual's sexual identity. We can stop those described stigmas if we start to pay attention to the signs from the changes of a person's behaviour that fluids into the action or emotional condition. Psychologists agree that human attitudes have a relationship between the subject and the object, in which the

object here could be a material thing, a person, a group of people, social values, perspectives, rules, *et cetera*. The emotional feeling has numerous variations that classify an object because they imply certain perceptions directly related to the individual's behaviour (Sarwono, 2019). In terms of a relationship between a couple, 'love' is one emotion that affects a person's attitude and behaviour. This type of emotion that affects human emotions has been studied to determine the relationship between a person's psychological attitudes and love perspectives through the visible and invisible signs, actions or feelings. If the actions and feelings imply something else, then it can explain the phenomena between a loving couple by projecting those variables into a sign.

The sign itself discusses everything that is taken as significantly substituting for something else (Eco, 1979, in Yakin and Totu, 2014). As previously stated, the individuals will not react to doing something without a stimulus that triggers an action. Due to the action being considered a sign, we can identify the meaning of the emotion and the action generated by human cognition as variables that correlate with the stimulus and human behaviour through the related signs. As science develops, 'sign' has its theory called semiotics proposed by the two pioneers of semiotic, Ferdinand De Saussure (1857 – 1913) and Charles Sanders Peirce (1839-1914), which became famous when some people applied it and introduced it to analyze any fields of science, including psychology. Semiotics is the study of how we, as humans, operate the process of thinking and reasoning a sign, and then we use it to communicate, perceive, and interpret signs and draw conclusions in the form of interpretations (Bundgaard & Stjernfelt 2007, in Copley 2010). By paying attention to the related signs, we can assess our interpretations of the attitudes and personalities of other people.

Moreover, a fair assessment of both men's and women's behaviour could also happen if we take it seriously to understand them through the sign shown in humans. If this is

applied consistently, we can stop the long-rooted negative judgment in society that stood still in front of us, which shows the existence of women's inferiority and the phenomenon of fragile masculinity among men. Indeed, these social issues have attracted the attention of academic and non-academic writers to put this issue in their works. They have used it as a tool or media for writers to write down their restlessness about social issues that sometimes cause inequality in society, for example, issues related to women's psychology and gender equality. It was getting reverb since the feminism movement began to encourage equality to balance the position of men and women in that era among society (Suryaman, Wiyatmi, & Liliani, 2011) by flicking it up, primarily through literature. However, Raffagnino and Puddu (2018) agreed that this issue had already been continuously discussed and become a particular genre of interest, especially for literary connoisseurs, which preferentially exposed the inferiority of women's emotional existence on their psychological state, perspectives, and behaviour.

Since those issues spread out wider and found it resembles who agrees to related issues, many works were created and actively presented the figure of women that exposed their natural behaviour. It is such a great movement by forming characters that reflect the women's perspective and the author's impression of the women's figure. One of the books related to these issues is *Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas* novels by James Patterson. In *Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas*, James Patterson illustrates a love story between Katie Wilkinson and Matthew Harrison. They must end up with an unknown complicated reason related to Matthew's former lover, Suzanne Bedford, that Katie never knew what it was about precisely. In this novel, James invites the readers to follow the track record of Suzanne from the diary that Katie had given by Matthew after he started to end their love relationship. This novel was published in 2001 in the United States of America (USA) and became the

first romance genre he had ever written before among his thriller works, based on his own love stories.

The story begins when Katie receives Suzanne Bedford's diary, which at the front cover written for 'Nicholas,' given by her ex-boyfriend, Matthew Harrison. Everything seems vague in Katie's eyes about her sudden departure that Matthew has decided by himself, but it unexpectedly becomes clearer after she reads page by page. The emergence of the character 'Suzanne Bedford' appeared like another point of view besides the author himself, so it seems like she was telling her memorizing stories to Katie Wilkinson through the diary. Also, the name "Nicholas" at the front of the diary had seen by Katie as a piece of puzzle that she needs to reveal, apart from Matthew's departure for no reason. After page by page, she realized that Nicholas is the name of Suzanne and Matthew's infant, and other truths that Katie wanted to get to know had been revealing one by one. It starts from the background of why Matthew left her, the memories between Suzanne Bedford with Matthew Harrison, until the loss and pain that Matthew never explained to Katie.

James Patterson also described all forms of psychological changes and the perspective of male and female characters in viewing love experience in this novel. As readers, we are invited to witness the complicated love story between Suzanne, Katie, and Matthew, which influenced their psychological state and life. Based on the story, the main female characters — Suzanne Bedford and Katie Wilkinson, are the most dominant regarding psychological portrayal when facing the problem of love that can affect the lives and behaviour of both characters. We also invited to dive into women's psychology, presenting Suzanne Bedford as a figure of a woman who experienced several love relationships with men until she met the right one and then became her husband and the last lover she ever had. In contrast with Suzanne Bedford, Katie Wilkinson presents a young countrywoman who has no clue what kind of 'love' feeling she felt after meeting Matthew Harrison. Her experience depicted a

woman who will ultimately give the rest of her heart for the love they want to show to her partner without knowing that she might put herself at some risks, including a broken heart and abandonment. This novel also portrayed men's point of view, presented mainly by Matthew Harrison, but there are also several men characters that we can compare over their attitudes and behaviours while in a love relationship with women.

This novel's story will show us how a distraction experienced by individuals, especially the main female characters, influences their personality and behaviour in Katie and Suzanne's lives. Moreover, when the love feelings brought them into their new personality development, both main women characters agreed to have a marriage and chose to be wife and mother at the same time. James here also served many scenes that portrayed how women's perspectives about love could build after they passed the occurrence are impactful to their psychological condition, which in this case it also happened to men characters. The way they handle all the problems to deal with their issues peacefully is becoming important because every action, thought, and feeling is well-described by the writer. In certain parts of this novel, it also can be seen how female characters, Katie and Suzanne, have shown a common understanding while solving the same problems as a lover based on their method reflected by their personalities, but still involving their instinct and logical mind combined to make it balance and on the right track.

As these women characters have different backgrounds, each has their uniqueness in showing love to their loved one and partner. 'Suzanne Bedford' character here, for example, is considered as dominant as her stories of the diary are the most told of this novel. We can see through this novel that her personality and behaviour have changed from being an adult woman with a brilliant carrier turned into not only a carrier woman but also a wife, a figure for a son, and a heart disease survivor. Most of the stories she wrote in the diary mainly tell us how proud she is to be a mother figure for her son, Nicholas. The dedication of her diary

for her son, written to immortalize the memories of Suzanne while she was nurturing him, becomes a 'book tips' for Katie, whose a mother soon-to-be. Also, as a foreigner and workaholic, in a big city and Katie Wilkinson is destined to become a mother too. Since both of them commit to themselves to fall for love, it becomes the root of any changes in some aspects of psychological condition and love perspectives towards self-actualization of both characters. To show the equality of human psychological state, the writer of this novel also portrayed the same issues through 'Matthew Harrison' character to expose to the readers that 'love' relationship with the loved ones, whether it has a family bond or not at all, there would be a positive or negative consequence which truly existed no matter what gender of an individual is.

This study aimed to examine the women's psychological conditions based on behaviours of the women and male main characters of *Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas* novel by James Patterson while having a love relationship that changes them in many aspects of life. The researcher will apply the Semiotics theory of Charles Sanders Peirce to analyze the sign categorized as a *Representamen* (ground) divided into *Qualisign*, *Sinsign*, and *Legisign*. These three categories of *Representamen* have deployed the dialogues that indicate the psychological condition of both men and women characters of the novel. Then, it will be followed Nancy Chodorow's psychoanalysis about *The Reproduction of Mothering and Gender Personality* (1978) to explain the formation of women's personalities through their behaviour and perspectives that they believed in, before and after being a wife and mother, of the dialogues that have already separated according to the three of representing categories. It can also cover men's psychological of 'Matthew Harrison's character that would discuss as the opponent of gender who also experienced changes of his behaviours during love relationship that leads him to take the role as a husband and father. The use of those theories is to highlight that both men and women will use their logical minds along

with their emotional feelings while in a love relationship and prove society wrong that only men who can do it right in experiencing 'love' feelings.

This research will be focused on identifying the psychological condition of the main female characters, Suzanne Bedford and Katie Wilkinson, while they both are in a love relationship. This psychological condition here refers to their behaviour influenced by their actions and love perspectives constructed regarding their feelings. Moreover, these two main female characters have the same role as a wife and having a baby since they commit to taking the love relationship seriously. All the dialogues of these three main characters that indicate behavioural changes while in a love relationship will be used to analyze the psychological issues but classified them first into three categories according to Peirce's Semiotics theory of *Representamen* (Ground); *Qualisign*, *Sinsign*, and *Legisign*. Furthermore, the classified dialogues should be interpreting its psychological issues to compare male and female main characters of the novel in descriptive analysis methods and qualitative research. Indeed, many studies simultaneously highlighted the issues of psychology of women and discussed in every media, such as journal articles, books, novels, *et cetera*. This *Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas* novel is one of the examples of literary works that exposed the phenomenon of related issues. The researcher of this study has tried to find similar research that used Peircean theory about Semiotics and Nancy Chodorow's psychoanalytic theory, but it is pretty hard to find the identical one.

Fortunately, the following researchers have discussed the same issues, even though it is still rare to find those using the same combination of related theories mentioned before. Of the many existing studies, the research examples used as the significant reference of this research come from one that focused on the same use of theory but discussed different issues. For example, the research mentioned here uses the same theory about Semiotics. The title is *Semiotika Charles Sanders Pierce: Relasi Trikotomi (Ikon, Indeks Dan Simbol)*

Dalam Cerpen Anak Mercusuar written by Mashdar Zainal published in 2020, observed by Sovia Wulandari and Erik D. Siregar. This research analyzed a short story titled *Anak Mercusuar* using Peircean Trichotomy models of Object dimension (Icon, Index, and Symbol). The researchers of this study successfully revealed the following results: (1) 4 signs identified as Icon; (2) 6 signs identified as Index; (3) 3 signs identified as Symbol. Even though the theory focuses used different, as they proposed the Object dimension of Peirce's semiotics, their research is going well in revealing the types of the sign of the short stories. Still, the writer could not find others issues besides sign analysis in this study, and they did not use the *Representamen* (Ground) level but the Object of Peircean trichotomy.

The following research is an *Analisis Semiotika Charles Sanders Pierce Novel Ayah Karya Andrea Hirata*, published in 2018, written by Syaidah. This study wholly focuses on describing Peirce's semiotics based on *Representamen* (Ground) to reveal the *Qualisign*, *Sinsign*, and *Legisign* in *Ayah* novel by Andrea Hirata. According to the approaches applied by the researcher, the study found the results of *Representamen* (Ground), as follows: (1) 52 samples of data identified as *Qualisign* which in the form of dialogues as verbal signifier and kind of activities of the novel characters, setting of time, and character's reaction as a non-verbal signifier; (2) There are 678 samples of data considered as *Sinsign* which derived from dialogues between the character of the novel, body gestures and facial expression, character's actions or activity, physical appearance, setting, thoughts and feelings of the characters, and any reactions; (3) *Legisign*, the researcher of this study found 83 samples of data that comes from the dialogues, body gesture or language, and facial expression. As we can see that this study revealed the Semiotics models of Charles Sanders Peirce through the *Representamen* (Ground) dimension; *Qualisign*, *Sinsign*, and *Legisign*. Even though the using theory of Semiotics is the same, the issues of gender personality and any kinds of

women and men's psychology discussion are not the main focus of the topic that the researcher wants to discuss.

The last but not least is a research titled "*Perempuan Pada Puisi Chairil Anwar (Kajian Semiotika)*" written by Rai Bagus Triadi and Reza Saeful Rachman in 2020. In this research, they used two semiotics, Charles Sanders Peirce and Roland Barthes, approaches they believed it could cover their research about women's figure that is not always a subject/object to become an icon of gender conflict among literary works. They try to define how women's figures portray in Chairil Anwar's poems and their realization, followed by the psychological condition of the poet while creating his works. This research clearly explained the women issues in six poems of Chairil Anwar but focused on the semiotic approaches of two semioticians, Charles Sanders Peirce and Roland Barthes, that picturized any terms of women's psychology to personality that the poet had written. As they only focused on Semiotics theories and wanted to explain women's existence as what it is, the researchers give no further explanation about the figure of women in those poems, so it seems too narrow for some reasons. At the same time, it could be denser if they want to add another perspective about women's figures and their personalities related to the six Chairil Anwar's Poems.

Therefore, this study will be focusing on discussing the human's psychological issues that correlate with behaviour and perspectives that they believed in based on the main male and female of characters in *Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas*, written by James Patterson as the corpus of the study, using Peircean's Semiotics approaches and The Reproduction of Mothering and Gender Personality theory by Nancy Chodorow as well.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study and the reasons for the chosen corpus, the study wants to answer the following questions:

1. How does the behaviour of the main female and male characters portray when experiencing love relationships and feelings in the novel *Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas* by James Patterson?
2. How does the portrayal of the main female and male character's behaviours when experiencing love feelings and relationship affects their psychological state and gender personality in *Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas* by James Patterson?

1.3 Purpose of the study

According to the research questions above, the purpose of this study wants to implement the following statements:

1. The study examines the psychological states based on main female and male main characters' behaviours portrayed in *Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas* novel by James Patterson while experiencing a love relationship that affects their perspectives on love.
2. This study examines the portrayal of gender personality changes of the main female and male characters in *Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas* novel by James Patterson while experiencing a love relationship.

1.4 Scope of the study

The scope of this study is identifying the psychological condition of the main male and female characters, Matthew Harrison, Suzanne Bedford, and Katie Wilkinson, while they were in a love relationship. This psychological condition here refers to their behaviour influenced by their actions and love-life perspectives constructed regarding their feelings and thoughts, using a semiotic approach by Charles Sanders Peirce's categories of *Representamen* (Ground); *Qualisign*, *Sinsign*, and *Legisign*. Nancy Chodorow's psychoanalysis theory, *The Reproduction of Mothering and Gender Personality*, will also apply to explain the formation of gender personality through their behaviour and perspectives that they believed in, before and after both sexes, men and women, having a role as partner and parents, of the dialogues that have already classified under the Peircean *Representamen* (Ground) categories of trichotomy models.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The outcomes of this study are expected to be beneficial in several aspects: as follows:

1. To give the readers a reference who are interested in studying the psychological issues and gender personality that use semiotics theory to reveal the psychological states, love perspective, and personality formation from its behaviour of an individual, especially in literary works.
2. To enrich the reader's knowledge about the formation of gender personality and its changes of individuals that are viewed primarily in love relationships appeared in literary works and society

3. To make readers realize that there is stereotype or stigma in society that still underestimated individuals' attitudes and behaviour in love relationships which bring the issues of gender inequality
4. To encourage the readers for giving some positive impact of mutual respect between human beings by understanding the psychological issues and individual's personality that others had

