

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

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

Humans are social creatures and live on earth side by side. As social beings, human behavior in society is full of positive or negative actions. Hossain (2014: 130) says that man is a social animal; thus, man has a natural urge to live an associated life with each other's and man needs it for the existence of survival. Therefore, humans cannot be far from other humans and have attachments to each other. For survival, humans must take positive actions and avoid actions that are detrimental, inappropriate, and hurt others. However, humans do not always take positive actions and negative actions are also inevitable. One of the negative actions in human relationships is betrayal.

Betrayal is not a new problem in human relationships. In this era, the phenomenon of betrayal often occurs around us. Betrayal can also occur in all types of human relationships i.e. marriage or romantic relationships, friendships, the world of work, etc. According to Websters dictionary, betrayal is the act of betraying someone or something or the fact is being betrayed: violating one's beliefs or beliefs, moral standards, etc. Akerstrom (2017: 9-11) states that betrayal is something that catches our imagination. We have all betrayed or been betrayed and we have many words to describe it, an indication of its centrality. Betrayal not only consists of treachery toward the country but experiences of betrayal are often entangled in relations with family and friends. They will suffer the consequences of the traitor's acts, sometimes in practical ways and sometimes by the experience of having been left out.

In this study, the writer chose the novel by Jay Asher *Thirteen Reasons Why*. This novel is a young adult fiction genre and was published in 2007. The author, Jay Asher is an American writer and novelist and he was born on 30 September 1975. *Thirteen Reasons Why* is a novel that contains the betrayal of friends. This novel tells

the story of Hannah Baker, a high school student who has a sad and tragic life story. She experiences acts of bullying from her friends. Consequently, she decides to commit suicide. However, before she ends her life, Hannah makes seven cassettes containing voice recordings. The voice recording contains thirteen reasons why she decides to end her life. It is sent to her friends whom she feels have contributed to her suicide decision. The recording, reveals the evidence that is the reason for Hanna's suicide, and the evidence shows betrayal, harassment, and bullying, which happens to Hannah.

There are three reasons why this topic was interesting to investigate and discuss. First, this novel contains problems that occur in teenagers, such as bullying, depression, romance, etc. Second, the betrayal theme in this novel is related to the writer's life. Third, this novel contains beneficial moral values. So, with "Protagonists Friends Betrayals in Jay Asher's Novel *Thirteen Reasons Why*" as the title of this research, the writer hopes that this will contribute to the problems related to betrayal problems.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The statement of the problem in this research focuses on Protagonists Friends Betrayal in Jay Asher's novel *Thirteen Reasons Why*. Based on the description above, the problems in this research are:

1. What are the types of the protagonist's friends' betrayals in Jay Ashers novel *Thirteen Reasons Why*??
2. What are the impacts of the protagonist's friends' betrayal in Jay Ashers novel *Thirteen Reasons Why*?

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

Every research must have a goal to be achieved. Therefore, it must have a clear objective. Based on the statement of the problem above, there are two objectives to be achieved in this analysis, namely as follows:

1. To reveal the types of the protagonist's friends' betrayal in Jay Ashers novel *Thirteen Reasons Why*.
2. To reveal and describe the impacts of the protagonist's friends' betrayal in Jay Ashers novel *Thirteen Reasons Why*.

### **1.4 Scope of the Study**

The scope of study is used to avoid deviations and widening of the subject matter. It aims to make the study more focused. In this study, the writer focuses on the analysis of the betrayal of the protagonist's friends in Jay Asher's novel *Thirteen Reasons Why* (2007). There are two subtopics that will be analyzed in chapter IV, namely types of protagonist's friends' betrayal and the impacts of protagonist's friends' betrayal. The researcher uses Larson's theory (2021) which takes about the types of betrayal, and Reis and Spencer's theory (2009) about the impacts of betrayal and takes several understandings from experts. The discussion in this novel includes

loss of trust, loss of relationship/friendship, loss of a sense of security, loss of self-esteem.

### **1.5 Significances of the Study**

Research is an activity that aims to obtain new information and knowledge. Every research must have significance. Likewise, this research has two benefits, namely.

1. Theoretical benefits: for the writer, this research is one of the requirements to complete undergraduate study. For readers, this research is expected to provide new information about betrayal.
2. Practical Benefits: This research is expected to be useful as a reference for students majoring in English literature or other researchers who are interested in the topic of betrayal.

## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Protagonist

The protagonist comes from the Ancient Greek *prtagōnistēs*, which means "the person who plays the first part, the main actor. Webster's Dictionary divides the definitions of the protagonist into two, namely, a) the main character in a television show, film, book, etc., b) an important person who is involved in the competition, conflict, or cause of the main character in a literary work (such as drama). or story).

The protagonist is the main character of a story who has a worthy goal (Mills, 2013: 29). The existence of the role is to overcome the problems that arise when achieving a goal. This problem can be from other characters, it can be from nature, it can also be due to his own shortcomings. This role also determines the course of the story. According Stackelberg and Mann (2014: 16), the protagonist is the character responsible for handling the main problem and the one most in need of change emotionally, psychologically, or morally.

Black (2019: 2-3) states that the protagonist is the subject of the story — who the book is about. The protagonist is the link between the reader and the writer. On a deeper level, the protagonist is a reflection of the writer and the reader; a hero is simultaneously unique and universally acceptable. The characteristics shown by the protagonist become the main motive in a story that shows emotions and instinctive

reactions that are sometimes related to the reader's feelings i.e. love, survival, justice, revenge.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that the protagonist is one of the characterizations in literary works. The protagonist is one of the main characters whose role is to determine the course of a story. It is also a representation of a story.

## **2.2 Friend**

Friendship is the most common relationship we meet in life. This kind of relationship cannot be avoided because humans are social beings, which means that humans cannot live alone without interacting with other people. Therefore, the definition of a friend will be explained through the following definitions.

According to Baron, et al (2006), friends are people who spend time together, interact in various situations, and also provide emotional support. Sastrowardoyo (2018), states that a friend is someone who can see our weakest side. He/ she can accept us as we are without the need to see our attributes. Whether it's a profession, or what it has.

Santrock (2003) defines friends as a group of people who are involved in togetherness, support each other, and have intimacy (intimacy), mutual trust, mutual feedback that can help adolescents to maintain an impression of themselves as capable, attractive and valuable.

Through the explanation above, it can be concluded that friends are a picture of two or more people who support each other, who have many elements of attachment to each other.

## **2.3 Betrayal**

### **2.3.1 Definitions of Betrayal**

The English word “betrayal” is derived from the old French *traïr* and the Latin *tradere*, both referring to “traitor”. The Hindi word for betrayal, *vishwas-ghaat* (literally, wounded trust) captures the essence of this phenomenon (Akhtar, 2014: 123). Also, Akhtar mentions that the definitions of betrayal indicate to (a) betrayal involves breaking someone's trust in one's reliability and availability, (b) betrayal can be deliberate or unintentional, and (c) betrayal causes hurt, although not explicit, but can also be discerned and felt. Betrayal is one of the problems that exist in human social relations. Acts of betrayal can occur in every type of relationship such as social, romantic, and friendship and it cannot be separated by age, gender, or social status. In



this sub-chapter, the writer summarizes and describes the notions of betrayal by several experts.

Reis and Sprecher (2009: 179) state that betrayal is a much broader term that includes lying, criticism, broken promises, intentional embarrassment, humiliation, belittlement, and gossip. Any aversive event that involves violations of expectations, trust, and commitment can be considered a betrayal. They also add that there are two types of betrayal, i.e. unintentional betrayal and willful betrayal. Betrayal can happen by chance or on purpose. With unintentional betrayal, the abuser inadvertently breaks the rules of a relationship without intending to do so; for example, he/she may reveal a secret, not realizing that a secret target does not mean it is shared. Intentional betrayal includes many different types of behavior. Some willful betrayals are premeditated and involve acts explicitly designed to be betrayed (for example, for revenge). Another class of willful betrayal involves acts committed for other reasons (for example, people cheat because they are in love with someone other than their partner).

According to Akerstrom (2017: 16), betrayal can be perceived as one a dramatic, unusual event; the other is less dramatic and more common. Obviously, there are differences between the two. Sociologically however I believe it may be fruitful to analyze them as similar social forms - as breaches of trust. Whether these appear as dramatic or not, it is important to acknowledge that treachery constitutes a central human concern.

The importance of trust as a basic relationship has been described by Bateson in Akerstrom (2017: 16) in the following way: This is what mammals are about. They are concerned with patterns of relationship, with where they stand in love, hate, respect, dependency, trust, and similar abstractions vis-i-vis somebody else. This is where it hurts us to be put in the wrong. If we trust and find that that which we have

trusted was untrustworthy, or if we distrust, and find that which we distrusted was in fact trustworthy, we feel bad. The pain that human beings and all other mammals can suffer from this type of error is extreme. So, betrayal can be defined as a feeling of being harmed by a willful act or negligence of a trusted person or those closest to him. The greater a person's trust in others, the greater the pain he will receive if the betrayal occurs.

According to Gusau (2021), betrayal is the act of exposing or delivering someone to an enemy through treachery or disloyalty; or the act of disappointing a person's trust, hopes, or expectations, or the act of revealing information in violation of confidence; or the failure to keep or honor a promise, principle, cherished memory, etc.; or an act or instance of unconsciously revealing or displaying some quality or characteristic, typically one preferably concealed.

Oing, (2017: 1) states that an act of betrayal defined as an intentional undermining of one's trust or expectations is believed to have the potential to affect one's level of co-representation, a construct that posits that those in a dyad share mental representation with one another. The construct results in one's actions being represented and having an impact on the other's actions, which is important for interdependent tasks that require cooperation or competition.

According to Fitness (2001: 5) in *Betrayal, Rejection, Revenge and Forgiveness Journal*, betrayal may occur in any kind of relationship context if one or other party violates salient relational expectations or break the rules in some way. Fitness (2001: 8) adds that an act of betrayal can be discovered in many ways. Sometimes, an act of betrayal can be discovered unexpectedly, without our intention

to know or find out. An act of betrayal may come “out of the blue” and constitute a deeply distressing shock and it may also be revealed by way of a partner’s confession.

From some of the explanations above, it can be concluded that betrayal is the feeling of being harmed or disappointed by the willful actions or omissions of a trusted person. The most common forms of betrayal are the disclosure of dangerous confidential information, infidelity, and dishonesty. The expression implies that betrayal involves breaking someone's trust, betrayal can be done intentionally or unintentionally. So, a fact that often happens in this world when someone commits treason, the betrayed person will automatically get hurt.

### 2.3.2 The Types of Betrayal

Larson (2021), divides types of betrayal into four categories. They are:

- a. **Parental:** When a parent or caretaker, someone you depend on for your needs to be met, abuses you or fails to protect you from harm.
- b. **Intimate Partner:** When the person doing the betraying is your intimate partner. This can take place when your partner is having an emotional affair or a physical affair. If one of the partners has an active sexual addiction, there is often betrayal present.
- c. **Institutional:** When an institution impacts you in a way that is in direct opposition to what they portray themselves to be or their stated mottos and goals. This can also occur when the institution protects the perpetrator instead of supporting the victim or “whistleblower.” This may include an educational institution, the military, healthcare systems, etc.
- d. **Interpersonal:** When a trusted friend, peer, or individual betrays your trust. The process and outcomes of interpersonal betrayal may also be regarded as a form of interpersonal script in that people hold socially shared beliefs about the kinds of behaviors that constitute acts of betrayal and expectations about the ongoing thoughts, feelings, and behaviors of both parties to the betrayal.

### 2.3.3 The Impacts of Betrayal

According to Reis and Sprecher (2009: 179), says that all forms of betrayal result in loss: loss of trust; loss of a relationship or friendship; loss of a sense of security and predictability, loss of time, energy, and effort dedicated to that relationship or

friendship; loss of integrity; and loss of self-esteem. Ultimately, all forms of betrayal signify rejection and relational devaluation. People who are betrayed feel that the betrayer does not value his or her relationship with them as much as he or she once did. Victims feel, often correctly, that the betrayer has put his or her own needs or desires above their own.

However, the clarifications to the impacts of betrayal are not explained further in Reis and Spencer's theory. To reconcile these discrepancies, the writer needs to take information from other experts to strengthen the arguments.

### **2.3.3.1 Loss of Trust**

Moorman, et al (in Zulganef and Murni, 2008: 176) say trust is a person's behavior to rely on the reliability and integrity of others in meeting their expectations in the future.

According to Shanchar (2021), when betrayal occurs, things that are usually trusted between spouses or those closest to them are questioned. Shachar also explains further that the impact of betrayal is not only losing trust in others but also in oneself. The feeling of being able to trust oneself is also shaken, so the victim is always second-guessing all his decisions. Normal reactions due to loss of self-confidence i.e. y crying, are depressed or anxious, panicking, and cannot even eat or sleep. This phase can last weeks or even months and can be triggered again if you learn new information about another betrayal.

Lee and Selart (2015) state that the moods and emotions that arise from the betrayal event will affect one's trust in others. People who have experienced betrayal will usually question his or her approach to trust and ability to judge people. In general, the greater the trust a person places in another person, the greater the suffering he or

she will feel. Trust is something that is fragile and can be lost instantly when that trust is violated.

Based on the understanding above, it can be said that betrayal affects one's trust in others and in oneself. Normal reactions to the loss of trust as a result of a sad betrayal, anxiety, loss of appetite, and difficulty sleeping.

#### **2.3.3.2 Loss of Relationship/Friendship**

According to Dariyo (2004: 127-128), friendship is an emotional relationship between two or more individuals, both of the same sex and of different genders, which is

based on mutual understanding, respect, and trust between one another. What makes them close to each other is the element of commitment, namely the determination to maintain that emotional bond.

Shanchar (2021) states that betrayal results in the loss of a relationship/friendship. Once the betrayal is discovered, neither the romantic relationship nor the friendship will change. Shanchar further explains that the loss of a relationship or friendship as a result of betrayal can trigger anger and often a desire for revenge. Someone who feels betrayed must have thoughts of taking revenge against the perpetrator or anyone who makes it possible to cover up the betrayal.

From the explanations above, it can be concluded that betrayal results in the loss of relationships or friendships. When trust between relationships is broken, usually the most normal reaction is anger and resentment.

### **2.3.3.3 Loss of a Sense of Security**

Asmadi (2005) says that security is the need to protect oneself from physical harm. The need for security is related to the physiological context and interpersonal relationships. Physiological security relates to something that threatens a person's body and life. The threat can be real or imaginary (eg illness, pain, anxiety, etc.). In the context of interpersonal relationships, it depends on many factors, such as the ability to communicate, the ability to control problems, the ability to understand, consistent behavior with others, and the ability to understand the people around them and their environment. Ignorance of something sometimes creates feelings of anxiety and insecurity.

De-Bellis (2014) states that when someone experiences a traumatic event, such as an accident, crime, or betrayal, the victim will find it difficult to believe in

something and will lose a sense of security, and find it difficult to control himself. The victim will feel that control has been taken, feel powerless, and completely out of control -- lost.

Based on the explanations according to the experts above, it can be concluded that betrayal results in a loss of a sense of security for the victim when him/herself is threatened. The threat can be a real or an imaginary one. The characteristics of a person who loses a sense of security are difficulty controlling themselves, feeling lost, and being powerless.

#### **2.3.3.4 Loss of Self-esteem**

Salkind (2006: 1137) defines self-esteem is also conceptualized as a state, a situational quality that is temporally raised or lowered by the events that a person experiences. The experiences can then lead to a variety of psychological defenses that are directed toward bolstering or maintaining an overall sense of self-esteem.

One of the effects of betrayal is the loss of self-esteem. Reis and Spencer (2009: 175) say that many people experience decreased self-esteem and a shattered identity, especially if their identity is closely related to the person they are related to. People who have been betrayed experience a number of emotions including stress, anxiety, depression, hopelessness, bitterness, and feelings of hurt. Reis and Spencer also add that the loss of self-esteem results in feelings of "disappointment", and that feeling is the reason why victims question the betrayal behavior and begin to look for the meaning behind the traitor's behavior.



From the explanation above, it can be concluded that betrayal results in loss of self-esteem. When betrayal occurs, the victim will experience a decrease in self-esteem and feel a loss of identity. The most normal impacts of loss of self-esteem are stress, anxiety, depression, hopelessness, and feelings of hurt.