

## ACTS OF TERROR COMMITTED BY THE ANTAGONIST IN NICHOLAS SPARKS'S *SEE ME*

Batmani <sup>a)</sup>, Shita Dewi Ratih P <sup>a)</sup>, Ni Made Widisanti S <sup>a\*)</sup>

<sup>a)</sup> Universitas Pakuan, Bogor, Indonesia

<sup>\*)</sup> Email correspondence: wsarkana@gmail.com

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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the antagonist in order to show the form of terror through acts of terror committed by the antagonist in Nicholas Sparks' *See Me*. Processing data in this analysis uses descriptive-analytical methods and literature studies that are based on intrinsic and extrinsic elements as well as previous research on psychoanalytic terror. Based on the results of the analysis, the antagonist committed to acts of terror to Maria and this is expressed through every act of terror that he does. In addition, the antagonist does not have a mental disorder and this action is purely carried out on the basis of the hatred he holds, then turns into a desire to take revenge by committing acts of terror over his daughter's death. The three acts of terror carried out by Avery were first, manipulating people, second, sending threatening message, and third by carrying out acts of violence which are part of the acts of terror.

**Keywords:** antagonist; characterization; revenge; terror.

### I. BACKGROUND

Humans are creatures that have sense of feelings, one of which is social feeling that is related to other people, both as individuals and as groups, namely the sense of brotherhood, sympathy, love, and compassion. These are all types of positive social feelings, while negative social feelings are the opposite; such as egoism, hate, and revenge (Fakhruroji, 2008: 49). Almost everyone has experienced problems with other people, such as problems with family, friends and the surrounding community. The difference between "what happened" and "what should have happened" causes the problem to be greater. (Risang, 2017: 12)

Such differences that occur can cause anger and hate when problems cannot be resolved properly. Anger and hatred arise as a result of problems that occur between humans that eventually can lead to the desire to express it in a way that is not commendable, namely revenge. Revenge is a personal retributive punishment, usually accompanied and driven by feelings of annoyance, anger and hatred for the mistakes suffered (McClelland, 2010: 197).

Minderop, quoting Sigmund Freud's theory of psychoanalysis, mentioned that unconscious desires are always active and always ready to emerge. Desires arising from the unconscious nature that are repressed are always active and never die (Minderop, 2016: 69). If you associate between a person with revenge and Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory, it can be said

that revenge begins with the influence in human's unconscious state of mind, because feelings of hatred are very deep that triggers an action that arises from an unconscious desire. Revenge that is already out of control is most likely due to memories of painful events and unconscious human desire that trigger the act of terror.

The difference between terror and terrorism according to the Great Dictionary of the Indonesian Language (KBBI) is; terror, an attempt to create fear, horror, and cruelty by a person or class, while terrorism is the use of violence to cause fear in an effort to achieve goals (especially political goals); the practice of terror. The difference lies in the number of actors and who is the target of the perpetrators. Terror belongs to a small scale group, where the perpetrators are individuals or certain groups who have personal grudges against someone, while terrorism is included in a large scale group consisting of a group of perpetrators who commit acts of terrorism and lead to political objectives.

Terror is psychological pressure, the purpose of which is to create fear. Terror is also a real act of intelligence in assessing, both enemies and potential enemies, from four things, namely strength, ability, vulnerability and intention. Terror generally takes the form of messages (Ramelan, 2017: 62-63). Based on the description above, the literary work that is used as the object of research related to the theme is Nicholas

Sparks' *See Me*. This study raises the problem seen from the antagonist named Avery Manning who holds a grudge against Maria, for he initially harbored hatred, which then the feelings of revenge arose. He wanted Maria to feel the suffering the same as he experienced. As mentioned earlier before, unconscious desire is always active and always ready to emerge and in this case, unconsciousness in Avery Manning's mind that was filled with hatred, then turned into revenge, and led to the desire to vent revenge that had been buried into an act of terror.

The Novel *See Me* was written by Nicholas Spraks, one of the greatest writers from the United States who was born on December 31, 1965 in Omaha, Nebraska. Most of Nicholas Sparks' previous works always took the theme of romanticism. The novel *See Me*, however, still with the element of romanticism, but with a twist of revenge that triggers the act of terror.

## II. RESEARCH METHODS

This research is a qualitative research that will be analyzed by using descriptive analysis method. The technique used in this research is literature study (library research), using primary data, namely the novel *See Me* by Nicholas Sparks and secondary data derived from theoretical books, and scientific journals as supporting analysis.

## III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Nicholas Sparks' *See Me* tells the story of a man named Avery Manning who is the antagonist in this novel. Avery committed an act of terror against a woman named Maria Shancez, who works as a lawyer in the district attorney's office. It was not only Maria who received the terror attack, her family and lover were also targeted. This incident was initially triggered because Avery considered Maria to fail in defending a case of violence experienced by her son named Cassie Manning.

The court only sentenced him to one year in prison for the actor named Gerald Laws who was a former lover of Cassie Manning. Though Avery demanded a prison sentence of three to seven years, the lack of evidence made Maria unable to realize the wishes of Cassie's family, and the decision was made by the prosecutor's court. After a year has passed, Laws was released from prison. A tense situation began to occur. Laws wants him and Cassie to be able to reconnect. Rejection from Cassie, made Laws angry and not only that, he also saw Cassie with another man named Atkinson. This triggers Laws to kill Cassie, then kill himself.

Cassie's family was devastated in sadness at the tragedy experienced by their daughter. They accuse Maria of being the mastermind behind all the events that Cassie experienced. Cassie's family feels that Maria is not supporting their family. After Cassie's death, a few months later Cassie's mother commit suicide due to the plummet of her child's death for the second time. Previously, Alexander had died in a car accident when he was six years old.

Avery also got a temporary revocation of his license as a psychiatrist. This made Avery Manning hate Maria even more. The hatred that he harbored from the beginning turned into a grudge. Avery's thoughts about taking revenge on Maria were raised in the form of acts of terror. In addition to terrorist acts directed at Maria, he also used his son named Lester in helping him, so that his son would become the suspect. Lester, who is suffering from delusions, makes it very easy for Avery to use his son to support his acts of terror.

Avery influenced Lester by telling her that Mary was guilty of all the tragedies that had befallen them and their family. The title of the novel, made by the author, shows the connection between Avery Manning and Maria. *See Me* which means "look at me" are the words expressed by Avery Manning as a sign that he wants Maria to pay attention to him like he is watching Maria. This relates to what happened to Avery Manning and his family so that Maria and her family must also feel a similar event.

Avery, who had planned his terror actions carefully, made every action run smoothly. From the beginning, Avery did not want Maria or anyone to know that he was behind all the events that happened. Therefore, Avery used Lester, who was delusional, in carrying out every terrorist act he planned. The police had initially warned Lester, but Avery always tried to deny all charges. This was done, so that Avery could still use his child. The denial was carried out by accusing Atkinson of the perpetrators who terrorized Maria.

Efforts in every action carried out by Avery did go well. However, in the end everything done by Avery was revealed. Maria tried hard to convince the police that Lester did all this, but then at the end Lester appeared to Maria and revealed that he was just being used. In addition, thanks to an investigation conducted by Colin, finally Avery was caught as a real terrorist.

The character featured in the novel *See Me*, named Avery Manning, appears to play a major role of an antagonist, because Avery caused conflicts (man against man) between himself and another character named Maria. The conflict in the form of acts of terror that he committed against Maria, in an attempt to

revenge against the death experienced by his daughter. The story in the novel is told directly by the author using a third person. The author describes the characterization of Avery's characters directly through dialogue or conversations between other characters. Judging through his physical condition, Avery was a man who was about fifty years old. He was half a century old with the physical characteristics of thin blond hair and light blue eyes staring out of his face. The physical characteristics of Avery is seen as no barrier for him to commit acts of terror that he had planned for a long time. The conflict that took place is between Colin and Avery.

Based on social aspects, Avery is a psychiatrist. His job is to deal with and cure patients suffering from mental disorders. If linked between acts of terror committed whether due to his mental condition is disturbed or not, can be examined through several facts about Avery, such as Avery's age that is fifty years old shows that he has long worked and lived his profession. Besides that, he is also able to build a home life with his wife and children which shows that Avery is a male figure with normal psychiatric conditions.

It seems that before the death of Cassie and his wife, Avery seems to be a good father, and cared about his family. This can be seen from how Avery tried to seek for justice, making sure that the perpetrators who got persecuted were severely punished. Avery tried to remain calm at first, before a court decision was made and entrusted Maria with her daughter's case. However, after the prosecutor decided a one-year prison sentence, it appeared that the prosecutor's decision made Avery angry and rebellious.

The change in character that happened to Avery, from his calmness in supporting his daughter and his patience waiting for the results of the trial, turned out into rebellion. At first Avery seemed calm because he thought that the perpetrators would be sentenced to three to seven years, apparently his desire did not match the reality. Avery became angry with Maria because the perpetrator was only sentenced to one year in a court verdict (verbal irony).

Avery's Superego made him lost control of his ego and id which then pushed him to consciously plan and take revenge by carrying out acts of terror against Maria. This was done so that Maria felt the same pain as he and his family experienced. A very strong id for revenge, defeats the superego in the form of truth norms in him, so his ego eventually lead him to commit acts of terror. His ego knows the risks he will encounter if his actions got caught one day. Therefore, he decided to use his son who suffered from delusional disorders to carry out the terrorist acts he planned.

Acts of terror committed by Avery began with manipulating his son named Lester who suffers from delusional to carry out the terrorist acts he had planned. Because of Lester's condition, he did not know whether or not he was doing was right. It appears that the act of terror carried out by Avery is to continue to send messages and flowers to Maria. The message and the flower are a symbols along with the anonymous message asking why she hates Cassie and wants to hurt his family. Maria's fear became a pleasure for Avery, because the target experienced fear due to being constantly threatened with anonymous message. The flowers that Avery send to Maria indicates that Maria's happiness will turn into fear. Avery wants her to feel the same sadness as he felt when he lost his family member.

Avery also carried out acts of violence which were part of the acts of terror by killing Maria's family dog. This was done so that Maria's family felt the exact same sadness over the loss of their beloved dog. The last act of terror was trying to kill Maria's sister named Serena, who was apparently unsuccessful. In addition to failing to kill Serena, Avery died trying to escape after burning a warehouse where Serena and Colin were in. Besides Avery, who had died in an act of terror he committed himself, it also made Lester commit suicide, because he had lost his father. The cruel act of terror committed by Avery apparently could not proceed smoothly according to his plan. It appears that the feeling of hatred and revenge by carrying out acts of terror has blinded him from seeing the truth that exist within himself. Such cruel intentions has led him to commit something that was not commendable just so that they feel what Avery felt when he lost his loved ones.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the thesis analysis on acts of terror committed by the Antagonist Nicholas Sparks' *See Me*, shows that the antagonist named Avery Manning who is around 50 years old, but did not stop him from carrying out acts of terror. Avery is referred to as an antagonist because of his presence in the story that most likely cause conflict (man against man) against another character. Avery who seemed calm and patient turned into sadness that give rise to the desire for revenge. The death of his daughter named Cassie was caused by a murder committed by a character named Laws. However, Avery blamed Maria for not granting his demand to imprison Laws longer than what he was sentenced.

Thus, it can be concluded that there are three acts of terror presented in Nicholas Sparks' *See Me* through the antagonist. Based on the findings obtained

from the analysis, the first terrorist act was carried out by utilizing other people such as Lester and Atkinson, in other words the perpetrator had a broad organization to strengthen followers and acts of violence. The next act of terror carried out by Avery by using messages and flowers to fear Maria, could be said to be an act of terror that caused psychological distress with the aim of creating fear. The last act of terror carried out by Avery, which was by carrying out an act of violence by killing the dog belonging to Maria's family and trying to kill Serena for his revenge, could be said to be an act of terror that led to an act of violence. In addition, it also proves the suspicion that is formulated in this study that Avery was proven to commit all acts of terror in a fully conscious condition because of the revenge that Maria wanted to avenge for the death of his daughter and wife, although eventually Avery lost everything including his life and his son Lester.

This research proves that, one who harbors hatred and wants revenge can defeat his own *superego* which actually detects that the desire for revenge is completely wrong. However, for the sake of gaining inner satisfaction with the injustices he has endured, makes the perpetrators take revenge by committing acts of terror against the targeted person in order to get the inner satisfaction that he seeks.

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