

LESTER BALLARD'S NECROPHILIA IN CORMAC MCCARTHY'S *CHILD OF GOD*

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Abstrak

Studi ini bertujuan untuk mengungkap nerophilia pada karakter Lester Ballard. Lester Ballard adalah karakter utama dalam novel *Child of God* karya Cormac McCarthy dan digambarkan sebagai seorang necrophil karena dia telah melakukan hubungan seksual dengan mayat wanita dan secara seksual tertarik pada mayat tersebut. Studi ini berfokus pada dua masalah utama (1) Bagaimana penggambaran necrophilia dalam novel *Child of God* karya Cormac McCarthy? (2) Bagaimana necrophilia menunjukkan hasrat Lester Ballard akan dominasi? Teori psikologi necrophilia digunakan untuk menjawab pertanyaan-pertanyaan itu. Hasil dari pokok permasalahan pertama ditemukan bahwa Lester Ballard adalah seorang necrophil. Dia juga menunjukkan karakteristik-karakteristik yang biasa muncul dalam diri necrophil seperti kecintaan akan kekerasan, sifat kekanak-kanakan dan antisosial. Necrophilia dalam diri Lester Ballard juga dapat dilihat dari tingkah lakunya. Awalnya dia tidak tertarik pada mayat dan hanya mendambakan wanita hidup. Kesempatan untuk merasakan tubuh wanitalah yang mendorongnya untuk melakukan aksinya. Itu membuatnya digolongkan sebagai Opportunistic Necrophile, tapi setelah merasakan kepuasan seksual dia mulai membunuh wanita untuk kemudian memperkosa mayat mereka, hal itu merubahnya menjadi seorang Homicidal Necrophile dan pembunuh. Dalam analisa kedua, studi ini mendiskusikan tentang hasrat Lester Ballard akan dominasi. Dengan necrophilia dia bisa mengontrol orang lain. Dia merasa dominan setelah membunuh dan memperkosa mayat korbannya karena mayat tidak dapat melakukan penolakan terhadap hal-hal seksual yang dia lakukan, dan itu memberikan kepuasan yang paling besar bagi Lester Ballard.

Kata kunci: necrophilia, kekerasan, ketidakdewasaan, antisosial, dominasi

Abstract

This study focuses to expose the necrophilia in Lester Ballard's character. Lester Ballard, the main character in Cormac McCarthy's novel *Child of God*, is described as a Necrophile because he has done unbelievable action by has sex with a dead woman and sexually attracted to her. This study is focused on two major problems: (1) How is Lester Ballard's necrophilia depicted in Cormac McCarthy's novel *Child of God*?, and (2) How is Lester Ballard's necrophilia represent his desire for domination in Cormac McCarthy's novel *Child of God*? This study is using psychology of necrophilia theory to answer all of the problems. The result of the first statement of problems was found that Lester Ballard is a necrophile. Ballard also shows the characteristics of necrophile such as being violent, immature and antisocial. Lester Ballard's character toward necrophilia also can be seen in his action. At first he does not have any interest with dead people and prefer to lust living woman. The opportunity to feels the girl body is the factor that make him doing his action. It makes him fall into the class of Opportunistic Necrophile, but after feels the sexual satisfaction, he kills women to rape their corpses, makes him into homicidal necrophile and murder. In the second analysis, this study discusses about Lester Ballard's desire for domination. Necrophilia has given him control to other people. He feels dominant after killing and raping his victims because corpses can not reject him no matter what he has done to them and it gives him a greatest satisfaction.

Key words: necrophilia, violence, immaturity, antisocial, domination

INTRODUCTION

In life, people will always try to find happiness. The happiness can be found simply by spend your time with the one you love, because nobody want to life alone. They need each other for support, especially to fulfill their desires. Freud already argued that humanity's very movement into civilized society require the repression of their primitive but still very insistent desire. That desire is sexual desire. However, the sexual impulse was so powerful that it continually threatened to "return" and thus disrupt human conscious functioning. Humans are driven from birth by the desire to acquire and enhance bodily pleasures, in other word by having sex. At that time, a good sex partner is needed to boost the feeling away and makes their life more pleasurable.

Unfortunately, sometimes the problems occurred unexpectedly. The culture, religion and also rejection can prevent somebody to gain his sexual pleasure. If they can not fulfill their sexual desire, they release it by doing something that considered bizarre without thinking about its consequences. Sometimes they will use violence to reach their goal. They shift their desire around particular object that should not be seen sexually and a group of conditions known as paraphilia or sexual preference disorder may develop.

For most of people, seeing a corpse can be considered as one of the most frightening and disgusting experience. The smell of rotting flesh and also the horror to be near the death can haunt people for a long time. Most people still thinking that the idea about living human that fall in love with a dead people is impossible and crazy, but in fact, this phenomenon is real because for a Necrophile, corpses are their tool to get sexual satisfaction . (Smith, 1978:87).

Necrophilia, sexual attraction to corpses, is the part of Paraphilia. It is also one of the weirdest, bizarre and revolting practices of abnormal sensuality. It can be seen alone or in together with a number of other paraphilias, usually sadism, cannibalism, vampirism (the practice of drinking blood from a person or animal), necropedophilia (sexual attraction to the corpses of children) and necrozoophilia (sexual attraction to the corpses of animals), etc. For people, Necrophilia or others Paraphilia and sexual disorder are one of the most taboo and forbidden thing to discuss. It is generally recognized to be rare. The fact that there are few people that aware of the existence of necrophilia makes this topic more interesting. However, it has been argued that it may be more prevalent than statistics imply. The fact that the victim (corpse) is unable to complain makes the cases only come to light when the necrophile gets caught. Even among those, not all cases would be reported in medical journals or textbooks (Aggrawal, 2011:5)

Child of God is one of the most controversial books that deal with the issue of necrophilia. Lester Ballard, the main character, is a dispossessed, violent man who unable to have conventional romantic relationships with woman. Eventually, he descends into necrophilia after finding a dead couple in a car. He takes the girl's corpse and treats it like a lover. After his "first love" is destroyed in a fire, he becomes very sad and tries to create dead female partners by shooting them with his rifle. He would take the corpse and hide it in his cave, stores them for later using them for his sexual pleasure.

In accordance to the background of the study above, it can be simplified to discuss among three problems that emerge as significant concern toward this novel.

1. How does Lester Ballard's necrophilia represent his desire for domination in Cormac McCarthy's novel *Child of God*?
2. How does Lester Ballard's necrophilia represent his desire for domination in Cormac McCarthy's novel *Child of God*?

In order to answer the question in the first statement of the problem, this study will use psychology of necrophilia theory stated by Anil Aggrawal. It will explain about the characteristics of the necrophilia and its classification. Some of the main characteristics of necrophilia that appear in Lester Ballard are: being violent, being immature and being antisocial. In his book *Necrophilia: Forensic and Medico-legal Aspec*, Aggrawal stated that there are ten modern classifications of necrophilia; role player necrophile, romantic necrophile, necrophilic fantasizers, tactile necrophile, fetishistic necrophile, necromutilomaniacs, opportunistic necrophile, regular necrophile, homicidal necrophile, and exclusive necrophile. In *Child of God*, Lester Ballard can be categorized in two classes, the Opportunistic Necrophiles and the Homicidal Necrophiles.

The second statement of the problem is how Lester Ballard's necrophilia represents his desire for domination in Cormac McCarthy's novel *Child of God*. This statement will use psychology of necrophilia theory too. The rejection is become the biggest factor that leads to necrophilia. People who used to be rejected will try to become dominant, because people with dominant characteristic also have a great power or authority that can make them recognized by the others. The process to obtain the domination is very long, but in short it can be categorized as: desire, rejection, anger, domination and satisfaction.

RESEARCH METHOD

Research methodology of this study divided into three parts. They are the data source; data collection and data analysis.

The data sources are mostly obtained from library research. The main data are collected or taken from Cormac McCarthy's *Child of God*, published in United States by Vintage International, New York in June 1973. The novel that is in form of e-book is taken from internet in August 2013. The data is taken from the novel text in the form of quotations, comments on the events and action related with the issue that is Lester Ballard necrophilia. The supporting data are taking from many sources such as articles, reference books, journals, magazines, internet sources that are relevant with the topic and other related sources. Then the data are collected, clarified, analyzed and made a conclusion.

There are three steps that are used in collecting data. First step is reading the novel. In this step, it is required to read many times. It is done to get the main idea of the story. The second step is deep reading. In this step, it is not just reading but also giving mark to the statements that will show the answer of the problems. It is done to collect the data which is in speeches, actions, and attitudes of Lester Ballard as the main character of the novel and speeches, actions, and attitudes of the other characters that related to Lester Ballard. And the last step is observation of the data to view the Lester Ballard's necrophilia and his desire for domination.

The collection data will be selected and analyzed by the guide of the theories. The data will be analyzed with psychology of necrophilia theory. To analyze necrophilia, it begins by giving mark which speeches, actions, and attitude of the Lester Ballard's character that reveal necrophilia. And giving marks which speeches, actions, and attitude of the other characters that related to Lester Ballard that reveal necrophilia of Lester Ballard. Finally, it is ended by giving explanations, comments, and judgments to those classifications.

ANALYSIS

The theories that are stated in the previous chapter are used as a guide to accomplish it. This analysis will divided into several sub chapters. The first part in this chapter is about the characteristics of necrophilia that shown by Lester Ballard in Cormac McCarthy's "*Child of God*" and also its classification. The second part is about the process to reveal his desire for domination in the novel.

Lester Ballard's Necrophilia

Necrophilia also called thanatophilia or necrolagnia is an extremely rare sexual variation in which a person obtains sexual gratification by viewing or having intercourse with a corpse (Aggrawal, 2011:2). In more recent times, necrophilia is classified as a paraphilia

by the The American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder*.

Necrophilias are generally chronic conditions that some individuals can learn to control. Some of the necrophilia behaviors may be practiced by many people and fall within the normal spectrum of human sexuality but experts and psychologists still can not find the specific cures for necrophilia.

This part will discuss about Lester Ballard necrophilia. To depict Ballard's necrophilia, it uses psychology of necrophilia theory, with several characteristics of necrophilia are; violent, immaturity and antisocial.

Being Violent

Being violent is a kind of characteristic that depicted to Lester Ballard necrophilia. Violent become the most general characteristic of Necrophile especially Class IX and X. The Necrophiles in this level usually have their history of violence like killing animal, bullying others or other criminal records. According to Aggrawal, most of them gain their violence behavior because of their trouble in the past. Necrophiles from other classes is also have big risk to evolving their own violence, even though they don't use it to kill people. They also using violence to gain their basic needs (Aggrawal,2011:47)

Lester Ballard has practiced the violence and used the violence to solve his daily problems since he was a child, as shown in this citation when young Ballard punched a boy who does not do his order:

Finney boy was some bit younger'n him. Told him, said: Go get that softball. Finney boy wouldn't do it. Lester walked up to him and said: You better go get that ball. Finney boy said he wasn't about to do it and Lester told him one more time, said: You don't get off down in there and get me that ball I'm goin to bust you in the mouth. That Finney boy was scared but he faced up to him, told him he hadn't thowed it off down in there. Well, we was standin there, the way you will. Ballard could of let it go. He seen the boy wasn't goin to do what he ask him. He just stood there a minute and then he punched him in the face. Blood flew out of the Finney boy's nose and he set down in the road. (McCarthy, 1973;16)

At that time, Ballard was ten years old. Although it is very common for kids nowadays to fight with his friends over the simplest things, but hitting a friend until he is bleeding is clearly wrong. Ballard does the action without single remorse. He thinks that violence is the best way to make people recognize him, to make him dominant. So, when one of his friend who is smaller and younger refuses to obey him, he becomes angry. He

punches the boy to make him realize that he is stronger. This action has made so many people hate Ballard. After seeing his violence, one of his friends commented: "*We just felt real bad. I never liked Lester Ballard from that day. I never liked him much before that*" (McCarthy, 1973:16)

Freud stated that humans instinctually are aggressive and seek egoistic self satisfaction. Violent individuals, however, often experience no guilt about a violent act nor do they have an empathic connection with their victim (Barry, 2002:97). Up to this point Ballard has not committed murder. He has done awful things, killing animals and hurting people but he has yet to kill anyone. He crosses this threshold when he murders the daughter of a friend and then burns her body and another small child's when he sets the house on fire. It happened after he asks her to show him her nice titties (1973:118) and she tells him to leave and that her father will kill him. Ballard leaves her home then shoots her twice through the window and burns the house down. He walks away seeming unaffected by the whole situation.

Being Immature

The second characteristic of necrophile is being immature. Most of the Necrophiles are someone who needs attention from other people, but because they can not get it, maybe because of the rejection from their community, they start to search the "substitute" from everything around them to make them feel better. Corpse is one of them. (Aggrawal, 2011:47). Because of the minimum interaction with society around them, the necrophiles usually become the immature one who see the world using their only instinct.

Lester Ballard is twenty seven years old, and adult but throughout the story it is assumed that he is very immature. He goes to the carnival and wins a small shooting competition. In this competition, he gets two bears and a tiger dolls. The manager of the game tells Ballard to leave because he already gets three prizes. Unsure and upset about this order, Ballard wanders home still excited about his new toys.

Ballard loaded up his bears and the tiger and started off through the crowd. They all look at what all he's won, said a woman. Ballard smiled tightly. Young girls' faces floated past, bland and smooth as cream. Some eyed his toys. The crowd was moving toward the edge of a field and assembling there, Ballard among them, a sea of country people watching into the dark for some midnight contest to begin. (McCarthy, 1973:63)

According to the text above, the dolls have drawn people's attention and Ballard is really proud with his achievement. The acquisition of these dolls and the fact that Ballard very excited to keep them for himself

clearly represent the childish manner in which Ballard lives his life.

Lester Ballard's immaturity is not only socially but also sexually. According to Freud, a healthy relationship requires practice and constant nurturance; it provides fulfilment of needs (physical and emotional); it is enjoyable, without reserve or inhibitions; and it continually strengthens the mutual bond (Cardwell & Flanagan, 2003:128). When somebody can not fulfilling those needs, they can not be called as sexually mature. If sexual maturity is not achieved and development goes awry, a group of conditions known as paraphilia may develop (Ibid:129).

Lester Ballard is never in a relationship before, and it slightly represented in the book that he does not know what he should do if he ever got one. When Lester Ballard brings home the dead girl from the car, his first action is to "*lie next to her and pull the blanket over them*" (1973:92). He just staring to the dead girl, admiring her beautiful face and silky dark hair. Those actions can be considered as an innocent action, like a little child who staring at his mother face in his sleep, or a loving husband tries to protect his sleeping wife.

After that, In the next day he goes shopping not only for groceries, but also clothes and lingerie for his new partner. The lingerie shopping experience in particular is amusing and somewhat disturbing. The experience of looking at rows of lingerie with eyes "*slightly wild as if in terror of the flimsy pastel garments*" (1973:97) is one that many husbands and boyfriends will recognize. One of the funniest part of his action is when the salesgirl asks Ballard about his female companion's size. He do not know how to answer her question because he'd never seen the girl standing up (1973:97). So he awkwardly answer the question by comparing the girl's size with the salesgirl's size, without realizes that the salesgirl secretly feels amused.

This is slightly ironic when somebody like Lester Ballard, a man who can kill people, blushing just because of an underwear. This scene indirectly confirms that even though Lester Ballard is an adult man, compared to the other he is still very naive especially about romance. Another evidence of his childish and naive side is When Ballard speaks to a young girl that he has some form of romantic feelings for, she answers his remark, "*Just let me owe ye,*" with, "*Say you want to blow me?*" (1973:20). Her comment causes Ballard to redden immediately.

In other part of the novel, he also dresses the dead girl, brushes her hair, paints her lips, and arranges her in different positions only to go outside to gaze at her through the window. This is like the behaviour of a small child who loves to play with his doll. Children used to call their favorite doll as their friend, giving it name, dressing it up with beautiful clothes and play with it. But after the children grown up and become an adult, this action seems too ridiculous for

them. Lester Ballard is twenty seven years old, an adult and supposed to be mature but this action becomes evident that Ballard has not mentally progressed, allowing for a child's mind to control the strength and authority of a fully grown man.

Being Antisocial

Lester Ballard can be identified as an antisocial/introvert man. The fact that he decides to live in an abandoned cabin in the middle of the woods alone, and the fact that he does not like to be the part of any crowd make him suitable to be categorized as antisocial.

As the novel begins, Ballard is thrown from his family home in Sevier County because of its foreclosure, and a 'carnavalesque' scene of people surrounds him as his home is auctioned off (1973:2). He is very angry when the auction has started. He threatens to shoot the auctioneer with his rifle but before he can carry out his threats. People who come to the auction just stay silent and look at him like he is an outsider. Although some of the guest are his own neighbour, they do not try to help him or call his name. Cormac McCarthy doesn't really say, but usually when land gets sold at auction there is a back tax issue. Ballard doesn't seem like the type that would ever think paying taxes was in his best interest and sadly nobody ever remind him to pay his taxes (1973:4). Later, this is revealed that Ballard is rarely leave his home or involved in any social activity. He stays in his shabby home, alone. No one comes to visit him because usually he will chase them out.

The only time he interacts with others is to terrorize other townspeople and make them feel annoyed. It makes people avoid him even more. In the night, people usually see him standing on the road alone like a madman. He would curse everyone who passed him or looked at him. It is like he tries to push them away by doing something bad.

Drinkers gone to Kirby's would see him on the road by night, slouched and solitary. The rifle hanging in his hand as if it were a thing he could not get shut of.

He'd grown lean and bitter.

Some said mad.

He stood in the crossroads listening to other men's hounds on the mountain. A figure of wretched arrogance in the lights of the few cars passing. In their coiling dust he cursed or muttered or spat after them (1973:28)

The Classification of Lester Ballard's Necrophilia

Necrophilia is a nonconforming thing. It is strange, peculiar and somehow a non sense to human mind. According to Anil Aggrawal, there are ten classes

of Necrophilia. If their condition became worse, they can start to developed behavior belonging to a different class (Aggrawal, 2011:43). Lester Ballard has showed this kind of development. From ten classes, he can be categorized in two classes, the Opportunistic Necrophiles and the Homicidal Necrophiles.

Lester Ballard as Opportunistic Necrophile

Opportunistic Necrophile is someone that does not have any intention to have sex with the dead, a very normal one that loves normal relationship with the living but because of the opportunity, they do necrophilia (Aggrawal,2011:69)

Lester Ballard clearly pictured to fall under this category in the novel. He never thought about sex with the dead people before he found the dead girl in the car. Because of his curiosity, Ballard comes down to the car and looks through the window. There he finds a dead couple in the midst of having sex in the back of the car. At first, Ballard wants to ignore them but his heart tells him to look at the couple.

The scene in front of him actually is a disturbing scenery, but Ballard's reaction is not to run and find help. He just staring at the corpse, observing every details of their body. When the man's arm dropped off the seat onto the floor, Ballard is very surprised. He accidentally banged his head on the roof loudly, but "*He didn't even swear.*" (1973:53) He is too focus to the scene in front of him until he can not feel the pain. Ballard confusion over the situation also can be seen from this citation.

He could see one of the girl's breasts. Her blouse was open and her brassiere was pushed up around her neck. Ballard stared for a long time. Finally he reached across the dead man's back and touched the breast. It was soft and cool. He stroked the full brown nipple with the ball of his thumb. He was still holding the rifle. He backed off the seat and stood in the road and looked and listened. There was not even a birdcall to hear (1973:53)

From the citation above, it is seen that Ballard, even though he is very interested with the girl, is feeling a little nervous to what he should do next. It shows that he really does not have plan for this and his encounter with the dead girl is only coincidence. He stares for along time to the girl's breast as if he is hasitating to touch it. This is not because he is falling in love with the 'corpse', but because he can not restrain his lust for sex. Finally, his lust win and he touches the breast. In his life, maybe this is the only chance for him to feel woman breast.

Lester Ballard as Homicidal Necrophile

According to Aggrawal, homicidal necrophiles are persons who kill in order to have sex with the corpse (Aggrawal, 2011:78). As a serial killer who kills women for sexual pleasure, Lester Ballard is the part of this class. One of the scenes where Ballard shows his action as a Homicidal Necrophile is when he sees a young couple making out in the woods. He comes to them posing as a policeman and asks the boy to show him his driving licence. When the boy asks him about who is he, Ballard fires off his rifle and kills the boy. He scares the young girl and kills her. After that, he leaves the boy dead body and takes the dead girl with him.

He dragged her through the weeds, walking backwards, watching over his shoulder. Her head was lolling and blood ran down her neck and Ballard had dragged her out of her shoes. He was breathing harshly and his eyeballs were wild and white. He laid her down in the woods not fifty feet from the road and threw himself on her, kissing the still warm mouth and feeling under her clothes (1973:85)

The citation above shows Ballard's necrophilia action to the dead girl. It is slightly different with his first necrophilia because now he does not feel wary anymore with his action. He ravishes her even though her corpse is in the bad condition and covered in blood. Ballard does not try to clean her up. He does not care with his clothes that can be filthy by her blood. The only thing that matter for him now is satisfy his sexual needed. In this level, Ballard has seen the dead bodies as a requirement for his sexual desire. He will do anything he can to fulfill it even though he should kill people, because by having sex with them, he can obtain his sexual excitement.

Lester Ballard's Necrophilia as Reflection of His Desire for Domination

One of the factors that lead Lester Ballard to become a necrophile is the rejection. His criminal activities and also his necrophilia measures increase as he gradually departs from society and tries to find a meaningful connection outside its boundaries. However, the consequences of those activities has lead him to become aware of the importance of domination. According to Rosman and Resnic, the necrophiles that used to be rejected by people will try to turn their feeling of powerlessness into something else, usually it is the anger or aggression. In the end, to obtain their satisfaction, they will try to become dominant, because people with dominant characteristic also have a great power or authority that can make them recognized by the others (Rosman & Resnic, 1989: 231).

Desire

According to Freud sexual desire was one of the most powerful impulse that it continually threatened to "return" and thus disrupt our conscious functioning (Bertens, 1997:28). Ballard is a human too, so he also has this desire. He also has the fantasy about living woman. It is clearly stated in one part of the novel.

He had eyes for a long blonde flatshanked daughter that used to sit with her legs propped so that you could see her drawers. She laughed all the time. He'd never seen her in a pair of shoes but she had a different colored pair of drawers for every day of the week and black ones on Saturday. (1973:21)

From the quotation above, it is clear that at first, corpse is not Ballard' main interest. He ever interested with woman in general. In the real society, the necrophile who has sex with corpse purely because he desires the corpse 'only' is also very rare. Most of them practice the necrophilia but still preferred to have healthy relationship with living persons (Aggrawal,2011:125).

When Ballard sees the dumpkeeper daughter, he clearly attracted to her. He even tries to seduce her but later gives up to her seduction. After lost his home and land, in order to make his life comfortable, Ballard spends his time by stalking young girls. This is when his desire for sexual intercourse started to develop. He enjoyed watching them grow up and sometimes amazed when they run off with local boys and has sex. As he has never experienced this with someone, he longs to have some type of sexual relationship and the promiscuous girl seem to offer him the best chance at achieving this goal. Sexual urge is something that can be called common for twenty seven years old male, and for Ballard this urge is almost unbearable

Rejection

In 1965, the year when this story took place, people still very care about manners. They judge someone by their behavior in social life (Hanze, 1999:206). Because of his limited interaction with other people, Ballard starts to do anything in his own way. Sometimes his action is considered as immodest or rude by people who see it, although his motive usually is pure innocent. It gives him a bad reputation in Sevier County. There is an example when Ballard tries to be nice to woman. At first he wants to help an 'old whore' who lost on the woods but his appearance makes the woman afraid and then attack him.

Ain't you cold?
What the hell is it to you?
Where's your clothes at?
She rose up and staggered backwards and sat down hard in the leaves. Then she got

up again. She stood there weaving and glaring at him with her puffed and heavilylidded eyes. Son of a bitch, she said. Her eyes were casting about. Spying a rock, she lunged and scrambled it up and stood him off with it (1973:28).

The citation above shows that Ballard seems to be genuinely concerned for the woman. She looks as if she is freezing. He tries to wake her, but at first he is unsuccessful. He moves closer to touch her and she wakes up. The woman then starts to scream at Ballard. She is very disoriented and frightened. Ballard becomes angry with her because he is trying to be nice, but she begins throwing things at him. He then grabs at her, ripping off her nightgown. He leaves her by herself on the mountain because he thinks she is crazy.

Anger

According to Resnick, people's confident can be reduced drastically by the humiliation, and if this happened gradually a condition called low self esteem can developed (Resnick, 1989: 231) Low self-esteem can reduce the quality of a person's life in many different ways. Submissiveness is one of the results of it. It may even lead to mental health issues such as anxiety, depression and anger, sometimes with tragic results.

When falsely accused of rape, Ballard tries to defend himself in front of the sheriff and the woman but the woman aggressively beats him up. She kicks his body, slaps him and calls him bastard. He can not do anything to stop her because when he tries to fight back, the sheriff comes and seizes him away. The woman and also the sheriff are having more dominant role than Ballard. They have more power because in their opinion Ballard is just a crazy man with bad reputation. Ballard can not do anything to stop this mistreating. Even though he is innocent, he lets himself imprisoned by them. Even after he is released from prison, there is no regret from the Sheriff for having him imprisoned with no evidence.

This accident has changed Ballard's view of woman. He starts to think that woman will brings trouble to his life. It hurt his heart when he feels about all of the rejection he ever had. His anger rises. Sometimes he also shows his anger in front of other people.

All the trouble I ever was in, said Ballard, was caused by whiskey or women or both. He'd often heard men say as much. All the trouble I ever was in was caused by gettin caught, said the black (1973:42).

In Ballard's case, the humiliation had driven him to become angry, especially toward people that had rejected him. This is like a defense for him to avoid the anxiety. When his roommate in the prison talks about his

sin and all the troubles he got from the law, Ballard's mind is traveled to the time when the woman humiliated him. He is angry because of his stupidity to help the woman.

Domination and Satisfaction

According to Freud, people with psychological problem will search their release by doing something that can considered bizarre without thinking about it consequences (Berger, 2004:122). In Ballard's case, his psychological problem is rooted from his hunger for acceptance. It only can be satisfied by the full domination toward the people that had been rejecting him. This desire of domination reflected by his anger and perverted action that rise drastically after his humiliation. Ballard never realized about the importance of domination until the day when he found the dead couple in the car. For the first time, he feels he has control over the situation, but, especially, over other people.

A crazed gymnast laboring over a cold corpse. He poured into that waxen ear everything he'd ever thought of saying to a woman. Who could say she did not hear him? When he'd finished he raised up and looked out again. The windows were fogged. He took the hem of the girl's skirt with which to wipe himself. He was standing on the dead man's legs. The dead man's member was still erect. (1973:53)

After removing the man's dead body, Ballard starts to have sex with the dead girl. The dead girl in front of him is just stay silent. She is lying helpless with her eyes shut, waiting for Ballard's next action. The dead can not speak to reject Ballard's commands and he takes that inability as full acceptance. Ballard finds these activities very amusing because for the first time he can be the one who takes control. In addition to the dominance over the dead girl, Ballard also puts his dominance over the man. He steals a girl from her lover and have sex with her in front of her lover's eyes. Her lover can not do anything for her because he is already dead. After he finds his corpse, Ballard remove him and push his body to the floor. He pushes him like pushes unnecessary garbage. He intentionally puts the man corpse on the floor and steps on his body when having sex. This is also to show that now he is the one who has the power. The dead man lying on the floor until the villagers find his corpse.

When Ballard takes the dead girl to his cabin, he treats her like his own roommate. He plays with her and talks with her. He has full control to that girl. Unfortunately, the dead girl is burned on the cabin and gone forever. He is really sad, but Ballard does not stop his crazyness because the taste of sexual pleasure and domination has given him much satisfaction. He starts to search for another victims.

In *Child of God*, it also shows that even though Ballard loves to have sex with a corpse but actually he is still prefer a warm flesh. When bringing the dead girl to his cave, Ballard remembers that he has left his rifle on the car, so he leaves the corpse on the woods and runs to the road to pick his rifle before somebody else finds it. When he comes back to the woods, he finds the dead girl has been frozen because of the rigor mortis. Ballard feels disappointed, as shown in the citation below.

He found the rifle where it had fallen from the truck fender and he checked it and then went on into the woods. She was lying as he had left her and she was cold and wooden with death. Ballard howled curses until he was choking and then he knelt and worked her around onto his shoulders and struggled up. (1973:85)

For most people, especially man, the feeling of domination is the part of their pride so this is natural for them to see it as their requirement (Smith, 1978:55). It will be easier for Ballard if he just ravishes the girl at the moment and kills her later, but for Ballard living woman is too difficult to handle. The girl will fight him back if he tries to rape her. Ballard is afraid that maybe he can not handle her and the girl wins the fight. He kills her to prove his domination to her because when the girl died she can not fight him anymore.

CONCLUSION

Lester Ballard, the main character in Cormac McCarthy's novel *Child of God*, is depicted as a Necrophile because he has done unbelievable action by has sex with a dead woman and sexually attracted to her. As explained in the review of related literature there are three main characteristics of necrophilia which are depicted in the novel. Those characteristics are being violent, immature and antisocial. Firstly, Lester Ballard is a violent man. His violence is caused by the rejection of the people around him. The second characteristic is immature. Ballard shows his immaturity side not only psychologically but also sexually. He does not have any experience with woman even though he is already twenty seven years old and he also does not know the differences between man and woman. The third characteristic of necrophilia that Ballard has is being antisocial/introvert. In addition to those, It can be terminated that Lester Ballard's character toward necrophilia can be seen in his perform and action. At first he does not have any interest with dead people and prefer to lust living woman. The opportunity to feels the girl body is the factor that make him doing his action. It makes him fall into the class of Opportunistic Necrophile, But after feels the sexual satisfaction, he kills women to rape their corpse makes him into homicidal necrophile and criminal.

In the second explanation, this study discusses about Lester Ballard's desire for domination. He uses necrophilia to gain control over other people, especially woman. It explained using Rosman and Resnick's idea about rejection and domination. The necrophiles that used to be rejected will try to turn their feeling of powerlessness into something else, usually in the end, to obtain their gratification, they will try to become dominant. Ballard successfully become dominant after killing and raping the dead women because a corpse can not reject him no matter what he has done to them and it gives Ballard his greatest satisfaction.

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