

# The Sadism of Jame Gumb in Thomas Harris' Novel The Silence of The Lambs

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## ABSTRACT

The backgrounds in this research for analyze is what are the causes main character perform in sadism. The aims of the study in this research, are to describe factors trigger Jame Gumb in performing sadism and to describe how Jame Gumb triggers sadism. The data in this research is taken from a novel. It is in the form of utterances and clauses reflecting the sadism of Jame Gumb. In analyzing the sadism that appear in the novel, the writer used descriptive qualitative method. The results of this study shown that Jame Gumb performed sadism because the background of life, he has a bad childhood, his mother is an alcoholic prostitute and his mother never gives attention, love and caring to him and he has killed and flayed at least eleven women, one of them is the first victim Klaus, who scalped and inserted pupa in her throat.

**Keywords:** Jame Gumb, Sadism, Psychological Approach, Personality Disorder, The Silence of the Lambs.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

*The Silence of the Lambs* is author Thomas Harris' third book, and the second in a trilogy of books devoted to the FBI's hunt for serial killers. Since the advent of FBI criminal profiling, Harris' works are among the most popular works of fiction dedicated to this subject. *The Silence of the Lambs* is Harris' most famous work, and has also been turned into a blockbuster movie starring Anthony Hopkins as serial killer, Dr. Hannibal Lecter. In this book, Lecter's character is the antagonist to the main character, FBI trainee

Clarice Starling. Starling must walk a delicate line in negotiating with the slippery Lecter, hoping to obtain his help in catching another serial killer, nicknamed "Buffalo Bill," because he skins his female victims.

Starling is plucked out of the FBI Academy by her mentor, Jack Crawford, to track down Buffalo Bill before he kills again. The novel takes Clarice on a journey from Lecter's dank cell in the bowels of the Baltimore State Hospital for the Criminally Insane to the slab where Buffalo Bill's la-

test body lies. The pressure intensifies when Bill kidnaps the daughter of U.S. Senator Ruth Martin. As the only female assigned to the investigation, Starling is able to use her feminine perspective to understand Bill's victims, and how he selects them. However, each day she spends on his trail puts Starling in greater danger of being flunked out of the academy, and not even Crawford can prevent this from happening. In the end, Starling rises to the occasion, and the green trainee single-handedly tracks down Buffalo Bill. She must then descend into the horrifying basement dungeon, where he traps his victims, to save Catherine Martin.

Every analysis needs limitation in order to make the analysis does not go far from the topic of discussion and make the analysis focus to what being discussed. My research is going to be focused on the sadism of Jame Gumb nicknamed "Buffalo Bill" in the novel *The Silence of The Lambs* using psychological analysis.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

According to (Kennedy ,1991) novel is a book length story in prose, who's the authors try to create the sense that while read, we experience actual life.

According to Worchel and Shibleske (1995:3) Psychology, Principles and Application. "Psychology is the scientific study of behavior and applications gained from that knowledge. "According to Birch and Wadeley, "A psychological approach endeavors to work towards an understanding and explanations of the biological basis of behavior.

According to Richard von Krafft-Ebing (1840-1902), he was introduced the terms to psychiatry in the 19th century. He was explained sadism in deviant sexual actions and someone feels satisfied after do something. Sadistic personality disorder (SPD) can be de-

fined as a type of personality disorder in which an affected individual inflicts sadistic, cruel, manipulative, aggressive and demeaning behavior on others.

### **Sadistic Personality Disorder Classification**

#### **a. Enforcing Sadist**

This category of sadistic people can often be found within important positions of authority, such as military sergeants, police officers, prison overseers and deans of universities. These individuals are in a situation where they feel that they are the ones who should be in charge of controlling, overseeing and punishing people for breaking laws, rules and regulations.

#### **b. Explosive Sadist**

People having this form of sadistic personality are known to be unpredictably violent as they are disappointed or frustrated with their general lives. They lose control when they feel humiliated and/or hopeless and seek retribution for the deprecation and mistreatment to which they sense they have been subjected to.

#### **c. Tyrannical Sadist**

This type of sadistic personality is counted among the more cruel and frightening of all subtypes as they seem to really relish their acts of brutalizing and menacing others. It appears that forcing their unwilling victims to submit and cower provides them with some special feeling of satisfaction.

#### **d. Spineless Sadist**

This type of sadist is completely opposite of other three types, as they are extremely insecure and behave like cowards. These people anticipate real danger, project their hostile ideas and strike first, thereby hoping to forestall the antagonist and put forth questions later.

### **Sadistic Personality Disorder Causes**

There are no definite, clear causes for people developing SPD. Some theories indicate that the way a person is brought up plays a major role in deciding if one is going to develop a sadistic personality or not.

### **Sadistic Personality Disorder Symptoms**

A person is said to have SPD when he or she displays certain behavioral patterns:

- a. A sadistic individual does not hesitate to humiliate people intentionally in presence of others.
- b. He considers all people to be under his control, no matter whether the other individual is a student, child, prisoner or patient, and treats them in an unkind and harsh manner
- c. A sadistic individual finds pleasure in causing pain to other people or harming them by lying without any apparent reason or without any motive to achieve any other goal.
- d. Unlike a normal person, a sadistic individual frightens and terrorizes others for getting his job done.
- e. He often puts restriction on the freedom of other people within a close relationship.
- f. A sadistic individual gets highly enthralled by all forms of violence, martial arts, weapons, injuries, torture or death.
- g. He does not falter from making use of violence or cruelty for establishing his dominance in any form of relationship.

### **3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative method. According to Wirartha

(2006:155) descriptive qualitative is a method to analyze, describe, and summarize the various conditions, situations and various data collected in the form of result or observations, interview or studied problem that occur in the field.

The data in this novel are utterances and clauses reflecting the sadism performed by Thomas Harris in a novel *The Silence of the Lambs*. As the source of data, the writer used *The Silence of the Lambs* novel as the main data. This novel written by Thomas Harris. Source of the data in this research is a novel. Entitled *The Silence of the Lambs*. It consist of 185 pages. It was published in 1988 years.

The techniques that writer uses to collect data in this research is the collection of qualitative data by doing reading the *The Silence of the Lambs*, it can make the readers to understands the story and the main character personality, thoroughly while identifying the psychological factors which influencing the main character by underlining.

Making notes of the sentence from what the character does or says on the sadism in sadistic personality disorder influencing the main character.

### **4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

#### **The Silence of the Lambs Synopsis**

The Silence of the Lambs is a novel by Thomas Harris. First published in 1988, it is the sequel to Harris' 1981 novel Red Dragon. Both novels feature the cannibalistic serial killer Dr. Hannibal Lecter, this time pitted against FBI Special Agent Clarice Starling. Its film adaptation directed by Jonathan Demme was released in 1991 to box office success and critical acclaim.

## **The Causes of Jame Gumb in Performing Sadisms**

### **The Childhood of Jame Gumb**

Jame Gumb was born in California in 1948, and was abandoned at birth by his mother. His mother was an alcoholic prostitute, who had named him James, but upon signing his birth certificate incorrectly, spelled the name Jame, and was left unchanged.

"His mother had been carrying him a month when she failed to place in the Miss Sacramento Contest in 1948. The "Jame" on his birth certificate apparently was a clerical error that no one bothered to correct. When her acting career failed to materialize, his mother went into an alcoholic decline; Gumb was two when Los Angeles County placed him in a foster home. At least two scholarly journals explained that this unhappy childhood was the reason he killed women in his basement for their skins. The film of the beauty contest that Jame Gumb watched as an adult was real footage of his mother, but the woman in the swimming pool film was not his mother, comparative measurements revealed." (The Silence of the Lambs, 1988:180).

"Gumb's grandparents retrieved him from an unsatisfactory foster home when he was ten, and he killed them two years later. Tulare Vocational Rehabilitation taught Gumb to be a tailor during his years at the psychiatric hospital. He demonstrated definite aptitude for the work." (The Silence of the Lambs, 1988:180)"

The explanation above main character have a grandparents and when they want take Jame Gumb, he killed them, and they are the first victims whom Jame Gumb killed. He was rehabilitation in Tulare Vocational Rehabilitation and he taught to be a tailor.

## **The way Jame Gumb Performing in Sadism**

a. Jame Gumb do is choosing women with big bodies and kidnaps them to become his victims. He then keeps them alive for a week or just long enough for them to feel pain.

"Now dry off and rub the cream all over. Rub it all over." The cream was warm from the bath water. Its moisture made the jumpsuit stick to her skin. "Now pick up your litter and wash the floor." She did that too, gathering the chicken bones and picking up the English peas. She put them in the bucket, and dabbed the little spots of grease on the cement. Something else here, near the wall. The flake that had fluttered down from the crack above. It was a human fingernail, covered with glitter polish and torn off far back in the quick." (The Silence of the Lambs, 1988:79-80)"

The explanation above Jame Gumb kidnap and torture daughter from Senator Ruth Martin the name is Chaterine Martin, she don't have a good body but she have a big body, and he need a big body for sewing a suit from a female skin. Before her body flayed, Jame Gumb let her life until a moment, when the time comes she'll died and flayed. Jame Gumb want before her died, Chaterine Martin must feel pain.

b. Jame Gumb hangs his victims upstairs and ends their lives with a bullet.

"Do you know what an imago is, Clarice?" "An adult winged insect." "But what else?" "She hook her head." "It's a term from the dead religion of psychoanalysis. An imago is an image of the parent buried in the unconscious from infancy and bound with infantile affect. Even the phlegmatic Crawford must see some significance in the insect chrysalis is change. Worm into butterfly, or moth. Billy thinks he wants to change. He's making himself a girl suit out of real girls."



Hence the large victims--- he has to have things that fit. He's doing this in a two-story house, did you find out why two stories?" "For a while he was hanging them on the stairs."" (The Silence of the Lambs, 1988:87).

The explanation above all of the do by the Jame Gumb because his learn from pupa, all of the changes in his life because his learn from pupa, first. Billy thinks he wants to change. He's making himself a girl suit out of real girls. Hence the large victims, he has to have things that fit. He's doing this in a two floors, he did because he hanged victims on the stairs. He thinks if he is a transsexual, because that he need a female suit, and he think for a make used a female skin, he killed then flayed for sewing a suit used a female skins.

c. Jame Gumb flays his victims using four knives that he has prepared.

"In the workroom, he laid out his knives on a clean towel beside the long sinks. The knives were four: a sway-backed skinning knife, a delicate drop-point caper that perfectly followed the curve of the indent finger in close places, a scalpel for the closest work, and a World War I-era bayonet. The rolled edge of the bayonet is the finest tool for fleshing a hide without tearing it." (The Silence of the Lambs, 1988:152).

The explanation above Jame Gumb had four knives for skinning his victims, each knife has its own function. The first no sway-backed knife to remove the skin, second there are a pointed knife both to follow every curve of her index finger, third a scalpel for the most delicate work, the last as well as bayonet of the First World War. Bayonet curved side is the best tool to clean the skin without tearing it.

d. Jame Gumb does after flaying his victims' skins is throws away the victims by dumping them in running water. does after flaying his victims' skins is throws away the victims by dumping them in running water.

"In a stainless-steel, tray on the workbench was "Klaus," the head she had found in the Split City MiniStorage. "Klaus had the bug in his throat," Crawford said. ." (The Silence of the Lambs, 1988:65)

The explanation above FBI Clarice Starling found a victim had flayed in thighs, and the six victims are a Klaus, Klaus flayed in head and his throat inserted a pupa.

"He had done it five times that they knew of, had Bill. At least five times, and probably more, over the past ten months he had abducted a woman, killed her and skinned her. (Starling's eye raced down the autopsy protocols to the free histamine tests to confirm that he killed them before he did the rest). He dumped each body in running water when he was through with it. Each was found in a different river, downstream from an interstate highway crossing, each in a different state." (The Silence of the Lambs, 1988:35)

The explanation above Jame Gumb had killed 5 or more times woman and all of the woman skins, and the victims dumped in running water. He also had at least one gun possibly a Colt revolver or a Colt clone.

## 5. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE RESEARCH

After analyzing the data, writer can conclude that Jame Gumb has a personality disorder, he is a sadistic person, at least he had killed 11 people, one of them is Klaus, Klaus is the first victim who scalped and inserted pupa in his throat.

This novel very interesting one to be studied, because this fiction contains mystery and riddle that makes reader curiosity to read it and they will try to know what really happens in this story. The writer suggests the reader to use this fiction for the next researchers as an object of study especially for psychology student, this novel is read material for psychology student because many factor psychology that contained in this novel.

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