

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The term "Korean drama," known as K-Drama, refers to television programs produced in South Korea. These dramas are now widely watched not just in Korea but also overseas. K-dramas are frequently praised for their excellent acting, compelling plots, and great production values that connect viewers to the characters. According to Betti (2015), in literature, the theme is not the summary of the story, since literature is about everyday life, the major themes are the significant events and issues that affect both public and private lives: love, death, marriage, freedom, hope, despair, power, war, retribution, evil, and so on. Therefore, anything that is a real-life topic can also be a theme in fiction.

K-drama also has various genres, and one of them is thriller. A thriller film or series is one of the genres that people love because of the suspense and cliffhanger that happen in the story, makes the audience curious and keep watching to know the answer.

Crime, horror, and detective fictions are just a few of the many frequently overlapping subgenres that fall under the fiction category of the thriller. Thrillers are characterized and defined by the emotions they evoke in their audiences, heightening sensations of suspense, excitement, surprise, anticipation, and anxiety.

An audience is typically kept "on the edge of their seats" during a thriller as the plot intensifies before a climax (Dukes, 2023). Important information being withheld is a frequent occurrence. There is much use of literary devices including red herrings, plot twists, unreliable narrators, and cliffhangers. A thriller frequently features a plot driven by the antagonist, who presents challenges the protagonist or hero must conquer.

The series *Mouse* was written by Choi Ran, and released in 2021. This series has 20 episodes with 70 minutes duration for each episode. *Mouse* imagines that psychopaths could experience regret and guilt for their deeds. The story revolves around Jeong Ba-reum (Lee Seung-gi), a loyal police officer whose life is turned upside down when he meets a psychotic serial killer. To learn the truth about psychopathic behavior, he and his companion Go Moo-chi (Lee Hee-Joon), are driven by this.

Choi Ran chose *Mouse* as the primary research material because the *Incheon Elementary School Murder Case inspired the story in 2017*. In the Korean drama series *Mouse* Jung Ba Reum, a good-hearted police officer gets involved in a dangerous cat-and-mouse game with a vicious serial killer known only as "the predator."

The psychopathic side of Jung Ba Reum, the main character, is enough to attract the viewers' attention. By doing this research, I hope to answer some questions that I had in mind.

1.2 Problem Statements

According to the background of the study, I found two research questions to be analyzed further, i.e.:

1. Which psychopathic behavior does Jung Bareum display according to the Hare Psychopathy Checklist theory?
2. What manipulative behavior did Jung Bareum apply to hide his true identity??

1.3 Originality and Significance

I did this research with my knowledge and through internet research by myself. I did not find any works with the same research on the K-Drama, *Mouse*.

This study focuses on the psychological analysis of the main character in the K-Drama series *Mouse* with Hare Psychology theory and his manipulative behavior.

1.4 Operational Definitions of the Key Terms

1. Psychological Approach

The scientific study of the mind and behavior is called psychology. Psychologists are actively interested in researching and comprehending how the mind, the brain, and behavior work. According to Emir (2016), psychology and literature are two scientific disciplines that investigate the human psyche. While literature utilizes fiction to represent human behavior, psychology studies human actions and their causes. These two areas of social science that focus on human behavior have connections and can complement one another.

2. Psychopathy

Traditional definitions of psychopathy as a personality disorder include recurrent antisocial behavior, diminished empathy and remorse, and bold, unrestrained, and egocentric characteristics. It is occasionally used

interchangeably with sociopathy. Lack of empathy and blunting other emotive emotions are two characteristics of psychopathy. Psychopaths are manipulative due to their callousness, detachment, and lack of empathy.

3. Hare Psychopathy Checklist

An evaluation rating scale for the features and behaviors that underlie the clinical construct of psychopathy have created for use with male offenders who are incarcerated. Robert Hare and his colleagues created the Hare Psychopathy Checklist (PCL; Hare & Frazelle, 1980) as a preliminary research rating scale for evaluating the clinical construct of psychopathy in criminal populations, (Brazil, et al., 2016).

4. Manipulative Behaviour

To achieve their objectives, desires, and interests regardless of their interlocutors' perceptual, cognitive, and emotional feelings, manipulators use covert behavior or other linguistic or non-linguistic means in some communicative encounters, (Al-Hindawi, et al., (2017).