

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background of Study

Multiple homicides are a serial murder which becomes terrifying and fascinating phenomena of modern-day crime. It is also one of the most sensationalized areas of research within the fields of criminology, psychology, and sociology (Hickey 1). It is now happened almost everywhere. This phenomenon is difficult to identify and usually devour many victims. It can be caused by many factors. So, that is why this crime is difficult to reveal.

There are many cases of serial murder in this world e.g. in United States. Serial killers in the United States happened almost every year. The number of murders in the United States fluctuated around 25,000 per year by the early 1990s (Hickey 7). There are several examples: In March 2000, Tommy Lynn Sells confessed to killing 13 people in seven different states. He killed men, women, children, and babies by using guns, knives, a bat, a shovel, an ice pick, and his bare hands. That same year Darrell Rich, a California serial killer, was executed for the brutal murders of four female victims. Most of his victims were young or teenage girls he sexually assaulted, then shot, beat to death, or crushed their skulls. His last victim, 11-year-old Annette Selix, was thrown off a train bridge. Contrast that form of rage serial killing to a person who quietly lived with the knowledge that 25 decomposing bodies lay under the floorboards of his house (183).







#### 1.4 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this research is the serial murder that happens in the novel titled "*The Best Laid Plans*" by Sidney Sheldon. This research focuses on the serial murder that is done by the character of the novel that is Peter Tager. This research is limited in the motive of Peter Tager kills the entire victims.

#### 1.5 Significance of Study

The result of this research is expected to give the benefit to the reader and the researcher. The reader of the novel "*The Best Laid Plans*" can get the result as new information from this research. The reader will know about everything that has relation with the character of Peter Tager from the novel. Especially, the motive of Peter Tager kills the victims. Then, the result of this research is expected can give inspiration and also advantage to the other researcher that will do the same study for other novel.

This research is also expected to give the benefit to the students at State Islamic University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya. The student of State Islamic University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya especially for student of English literature can use the result of the research as a material to the next research.

#### 1.6 Method of Study

This research is descriptive qualitative one. In descriptive qualitative how the data are organized depends upon the researcher and how the data



range of social and personal contexts,” and “are inflexible and maladaptive, and cause significant functional impairment or subjective distress” (American Psychiatric Association, 2000, p. 686) (Barlow and Durand 433).

4. Antisocial personality disorder: refers primarily to a cluster of criminal and antisocial behaviors (Hare 25).
5. Psychopathy : a personality disorder defined by a distinctive cluster of behaviors and inferred personality traits, most of which society views as pejorative. It is therefore no light matter to diagnose an individual as a psychopath (Hare 9).
6. Psychopath : a person suffering from a severe mental or emotional disorder, especially one who behaves in violently aggressive way (Hornby 936).