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).

There are several mass murderer typologies based on the behavioral and psychological characteristics (Hickey 12). Those are family slayer or annihilator, murderer for profit, murderer for sex, pseudo-commando, set-andrun killer, psychotic killer, disgruntled employee, disciple-type killer, ideological mass murderer, and institutional mass murderer. All the types of the murderer are carried out by the diverse way.

The phenomena of serial murder also explained in literature. Literature is thus summed up as permanent expressions in words (written or spoken), specially arranged in pleasing accepted patterns or forms. Literature expresses thoughts, feelings, ideas or other special aspects of human experiences (Ade 3). The statement said that literature is the expression in word of human being based on their experience. So, from that statement we can know that the event that happens in the real life also happened in the literature. Such as *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, it was the novel that mainly talked about the real of the circumstance of America after World War 1 (Stephen). The event that happened in the real life can also described in the literature because the description based on the reality such as the phenomena of the serial murder above.

Literature can be defined as the reflection or the expression of human's life. In our daily life, we can find many literary works such as, prose, poem, short story, and novel. Psychological problem often occurred in the characters of the works, including in novel, for instance, sadness, happiness, depression,

etc. There may be many motives, impulses and desires for someone to behave normally or abnormally.

Authors always try to make an interesting story in their work to make them become a great one and also to make the reader's interested in reading. As we can see in the novel *The Best Laid Plans* by one of the best writer of America that is Sidney Sheldon. Sidney Sheldon was born in Chicago on February 17, 1917. The most novel of Sidney Sheldon tell about the power and greediness of human. He created his novels with the surprised in every part so when the reader gets to the end of a chapter, he or she has to read just one more chapter. He writes his novels in order to reader can not put them down. Sheldon is proud of his work and the entire novel that have written because when he writes it, it is based on the reality or based on his experience.

The Best Laid Plans is an American novel. This novel is the best seller list. The novel explains many surprising events that happened in some parts of the novels. The most interesting event from the novel is the story of an assistant of Senator Todd and Oliver Russell's campaign manager, he is Peter Tager. He does serial murder but no one knows. He commits the murder with very clean so that no one ever know that the murder is him. He kills the entire victim to fulfill his desires that is caused libido that is owned by him. Libido is the sexual instinct that has relation with the emotional condition of fear that is felt by the person. He kills three women in the same way, namely by giving them a liquid ecstasy. So that, the victims dies because of the overdose a liquid ecstasy. He also kills three men. The explanation about the serial

murders is carried out by him it is revealed in the last part of chapter in the novel.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in analyzing the character of Peter Tager's action to kill the victims and the motive of him to kill the victims in the novel. Therefore, the researcher analyzes the novel by applying psychological approach, especially study of antisocial personality disorder. Therefore, the researcher entitles this research "The Secret of Serial Murder in Sidney Sheldon's *The Best Laid Plans*".

1.2 Statement of Problem

- 1. How is Peter Tager characterized in Sidney Sheldon's *The Best Laid Plans*?
- 2. What is Peter Tager's motive to kill the victims in Sidney Sheldon's *The Best Laid Plans*?

1.3 Objective of Study

The objectives of this study are:

- To depict about the characterized of Peter Tager in Sidney Sheldon's *The Best Laid Plans*.
- 2. To find out Peter Tager's motive to kill the victims in Sidney Sheldon's *The Best Laid Plans*.

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

were rendered (Lambert 2). Also, it is a library-based study. It means the researcher use reference such as books, article, magazines and journal either from hard copy or online ones. The researches follow the following steps:

- 1. Reading the novel of *The Best Laid Plans* by Sidney Sheldon as the primary data in order to comprehend and examine it well.
- 2. Selecting and collecting the data about the murderer in the novel that the researcher has read. After I find all of the data about the murderer, the researcher select the data about the motive of Peter Tager kills the victims use the psychological approach.
- 3. Analyzing the data collected by connecting with the theory.
- 4. Making conclusion based on the result of the data analysis.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

The researcher gives the definition of key terms in order to avoid misinterpretation towards the terms which are used in this thesis, they are as follows:

- Serial Murder : The unlawful homicide of at least two people or more, carried out in a series over a period of time (Jenkins, http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/863836/serial-murder).
- 2. Characterization : The writer presents and reveals character's personalities within creating the story (DiYanni 56).
- Personality disorder: enduring patterns of perceiving, relating to, and thinking about the environment and oneself that are exhibited in a wide

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).