

MISCHIEVOUS BEHAVIOR IN HONEY DEE'S NOVEL *UNBROKEN VOW*

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Abstract

This study is entitled Antagonist's Mischievous Behavior in Honey Dee's novel *Unbroken Vow*. The story tells about the antagonist, Mirriam who comes from family trouble and she is full of jealousy when seeing someone who has a happy family. Mirriam has a desire to destroy the protagonist's family by giving poison, injecting narcotics, making sexual abuse, and attacking everyone around her. The researchers are curious and interested in analyzing the antagonist's mischievous behavior because all the deeds are weird. The researchers also wish to know the reasons why the antagonist does such things. This article uses mischievous behavior theories by Purwanto and Denis. In completing the analysis, this study uses descriptive method proposed by Meoleong who describes the ways of conducting research method. The findings show that the types of mischievous behavior conducted by the antagonist are: attacking her rival, sexual abuse, injecting narcotics and giving poison; while the reasons of mischievous behavior are having problems at home, being bullied and having no clear boundaries.

Keywords: antagonist; behavior; mischievous behavior

1. Introduction

Literary work is a reflection of human life which also discusses human attitudes and behavior in it. Behavior is one of a branch of literary psychology that discusses the attitudes or actions of people based on environmental influences (Kartini, 1980: 94). Literature and psychology are related because they discuss a person's psyche, where literature itself has characters that play an important role in the storyline. The protagonist and antagonist or both of them have different behaviors and they affect the course of the story. Differences in the behavior of each character are usually influenced by the environment around them. They can be good or bad because of the encouragement of several factors that make them in that way.

One form of bad behavior is mischievous behavior and well-known among teenagers. Mischievous behavior is a bad act or manner showed by someone who can harm and diminish one's enthusiasm (Purwanto, 2015). The person does that thing because there is an impulse from the instinct of feeling or emotion, and it can result in a desire or motive from someone's mind. Besides, this mischievous behavior causes

serious harm and damage. For this study, the researchers discuss the mischievous behavior of the antagonist named Miriam in Honey Dee's novel *Unbroken Vow*.

In Honey Dee's novel *Unbroken Vow*, the antagonist Miriam, described as a person, who does not like to make a friend in her environment especially at school. Because of that factor, she always gets bullied by everyone at school, and many of bad issues are pointed to her. In the past, Miriam is a cheerful girl who is always smiling. But her behavior changes since her mother passes away, and her father decides to get married again. She hates many things which are related with the happiness. When she sees someone else happy, she starts planning bad actions on that person to destroy that person's life and feels what she feels. When entering into the protagonist's life named Claire, Miriam causes a trouble to destroy Claire's family.

There are many types of behavior, but this study just focuses on the mischievous behavior that the antagonist's does in the novel, and why the antagonist does it. The reason why the researchers choose this study as a point of discussion is because few have discussed mischievous behavior in a novel. Most researchers on mischievous behavior are field research, not literary research. Therefore, the researcher assumes that there is still a lack of knowledge about literary psychology that deserves to discuss like this. Therefore, the researchers decide to discuss the antagonist's mischievous behavior in the novel *Unbroken Vow*, and this study can also be an alternative discourse about mischievous behavior that occurs in real life.

2. Literature Review

The antagonist character is the cause of conflict in the story. The character who is the main opponent of the protagonist is called the antagonist (Sudjiman, 1988:19). The antagonist character has the opposite nature to the protagonist. If the protagonist has a good character in the reader's point of view, then the antagonist can make the reader feels annoyed because the antagonist creates many conflicts in the story. Even though they create a lot of conflicts, the antagonist can make the story more interesting with the presence of a strong contradictory character.

Behavior is described as an attempt on the part of an individual to bring about some state of affairs—either to effect a change from one state of affairs to another or to maintain a currently existing one (Ossorio, 2006: 49). The changes in circumstances brought about by the individual depend on how a person behaves. Sometimes, behavior can also be influenced by environmental factors. If the environment is bad, then someone can act badly, and vice versa. The human brain learns something through what it sees. Moreover, the environment is the place where humans develop, so that it becomes the reason why the environment can influence one's attitudes and actions. Thus, a person's behavior depends on how someone acts. These factors, such as environment, education, or beliefs, are the primary reasons for a person's good or bad behavior. It all depends on what one's purpose is in life. Therefore, a bad environment affects a person's behavior negatively. Usually, those things affect teenagers because at their age, they are still unstable, and easily influenced by the surrounding atmosphere. One of the bad behaviors that occur in teenagers is mischievous behavior.

Mischievous behavior is a bad act or manner showed by someone who can harm and diminish one's enthusiasm (Purwanto, 2015). A person who has mischievous behavior can harm those around them because of their desire. If they do not get what they want, they will continue to make those around them feel uncomfortable. Besides, mischievous behavior is behavior related to a person's efforts to achieve the wrong

goals, such as seeking attention, seeking power, and seeking revenge (Greenberg, 2008). Mischievous behavior is also said to be a form of someone's mistake in fulfilling belonging to something so that a person can make every effort to satisfy these psychological needs even by mischievous behavior, which can violate applicable social norms.

Here are some acts of mischievous behavior:

- **Giving Poison**

Giving poison is one of the bad acts shown by someone who can harm one's enthusiasm. Moreover, a poison is any substance that is harmful to someone's body. Also, the effects of poisoning range from short-term illness to brain damage, coma, and death (Medline, 2018).

- **Injecting Narcotics**

Injecting means administering narcotics using a needle and syringe into a vein, into a muscle, or under the skin. Then, injecting narcotics like heroin and cocaine is very risky. There is a higher risk of overdose if narcotics are injected (NHS Inform, 2022).

- **Sexual Abuse**

In reality, apart from women, sexual abuse can happen to anyone. It does not matter on a person's age, gender, sexual orientation, men, children, or transgender. People who are victims of acts of sexual abuse certainly experience the same impact as other victims (Rahmawan, 2021).

- **Attacking Someone**

An attack means attempting to inflict harm with physical violence against another.

All the actions are done in order to achieve their goals. Someone who commits mischievous behavior, especially teenagers, can do anything to achieve the goals they have planned from the start. But the goal they want to achieve is usually wrong, like wanting to destroy someone's happiness, as Miriam does to Claire. But behind the detrimental actions, there are several reasons why teenagers have mischievous behavior.

Every behavior that a person exhibits has a reason behind it. These reasons support why someone has this personality, such as teenagers who have mischievous behavior. According Denis (2020), there are five common reasons why teenagers have mischievous behavior: **1. They Don't Have Clear Boundaries** (Teenagers need boundaries to regulate their lives because they want a free life. They think that they are capable of living their own lives as adults. It is freedom that makes their behavior out of bounds. If they do not have clear rules of life, then the chances of them acting badly will be much greater). **2. They Are Being Bullied** (Bullying is one of the reasons teenagers have mischievous behavior. If they get bad behavior anywhere, then it will disturb their minds to be unstable. It is instability that makes them behave badly, because they feel scared and upset. Then, they do not know how to express those feelings, so they come out as anger). **3. There Are Problems at Home** (Teenagers' mischievous behavior may be caused by internal factors such as family problems. If there is a problem going on in the house, it can be scary for the teenagers, and they start acting out to get attention). **4. They Are In the Wrong Crowd** (Socialization is one of the reasons a person's behavior

is formed, especially teenagers. In this phase, teenagers begin to mingle with some of the crowd. But it could be that the crowd is not good for them and can result in bad behavior for teenagers, because in this phase they want freedom, as mentioned in the first point). **5. They Are Struggling At School** (The last point is related to the second point that mentioned. If teenagers have problems at school, it can frustrate them and make them think about things they should not. Because school is one of the places where they spend a lot of time, one of the reasons for the formation of teenagers' behavior depends on the school environment)

Based on the five points above, the researchers conclude that the reasons teenagers have mischievous behavior are because they do not have clear boundaries or rules in life. Their behavior also depends on the school environment, and is affected by problems that occur in their families.

3. Research Method

In conducting this research, the theories of mischievous behavior by Purwanto (2015) and (2020) are used to explain the antagonist's mischievous behavior and the reasons why antagonist does it. To do the analysis, qualitative methodology is one of the methods that can clarify every point identified. Meolong (2007: 4) mentions qualitative method as a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written texts. In this research, there must be some procedures or steps to gather the data as a whole. In this study, the procedures conducted are: collecting the data obtained from Honey Dee's novel *Unbroken Vow*, taking important note based on the words, phrases, and sentences related to this study, classifying the data into points included in the problem of this study and finally, organizing the whole data. Data analysis is used to analyze the data and it must be valid and real. Therefore, the researchers, first, analyze the data referring to words, phrases, and sentences in Honey Dee's novel *Unbroken Vow*; second, preparing the data in the form of quotations and describing them in detail and third, arguing the data and taking some findings.

4. Discussion

As stated earlier, this study discusses the antagonist's mischievous behavior and the reasons why the antagonist does it. It is discussed by using the theory of Purwanto (2015), who mentions that mischievous behavior is a bad act or manner shown by someone who can harm and diminish one's enthusiasm.

4.1 The Antagonist's Mischievous Behavior

At this point, the analysis focuses on certain matters that have been mentioned in the scope of the study, which covers the mischievous behavior that Mirriam does in the novel *Unbroken Vow*.

4.1.1 Giving Poison

Giving poison is one of the bad acts shown by someone who can harm one's enthusiasm. Moreover, a poison is any substance that is harmful to someone's body. So, when we lose something as a result of the poison, it will make someone lose what they should have. It is just like what Mirriam does to Claire's family, and tries to make Claire lose something.

“Mirriam is very helpful. She makes mommy hot green tea every morning...” (Dee, 2020: 250).

Claire says if Mirriam always makes a hot green tea every morning to take Claire's adoptive parents' heart. Although in the quotation, it is not mentioned if Mirriam puts poison in the tea, but the fact that Mirriam has bad plans to destroy Claire's family from the beginning. Then, Claire realizes Mirriam's mischievous behavior and asks her,

"So when mom got miscarried, you did it?" (Dee, 2020: 397).

"You saw it right how the bitch cried? 'Oh my God! I lost my baby again, Drey. I cannot be a mother.' It is so easy to make her cry" (Dee, 2020: 397).

It proves that she puts poison in the hot green tea that Claire's adoptive mother drinks every morning. But not only that, Mirriam also causes Claire's adoptive mother to miscarry and makes all of Claire's family, including her adoptive little brother, Archie, and her adoptive father, Drey, frustrated. In addition, Mirriam also gives the poison to Claire's adoptive little brother, as portrayed in the following:

"The doctor said that Archie has food poisoning and dehydration from vomiting too much" (Dee, 2020: 261).

Mirriam is always willing to assist Claire's family in preparing anything at home, including food. The evidence is clear when Claire asks it again in the quotes below:

"Did you poison Archie? He felt weak for up to a week because of you? Such a jerk! What do you want?" (Dee, 2020: 397).

"Nothing, I just want you to feel what I feel, Claire. Being alone and forgotten" (Dee, 2020: 397).

Mirriam put poison in Archie's food without anyone knowing. She has a plan from the beginning, so well that she succeeds in achieving her goal. What is more, Mirriam does not have any specific reason to do that; she just wants to fulfill her desire, although it can harm people.

4.1.2 Injecting Narcotics

One of the bad acts of mischievous behavior is injecting narcotics into someone. Besides being able to harm someone, the person concerned also violates the norms. When narcotics are used for medical purposes, such as for pain relief during surgery, it does not matter because the function is different. But if it is used for the wrong things, such as making someone addicted or carrying out other bad actions, it can be a matter that concerns crime.

"Steve found a used injection. He sniffed the inside of the injection then shook his head" (Dee, 2020: 307).

Steve, who is a friend of Claire's adoptive father, checks the chaos that occurs. The chaos is that Steve suspects Drey of sexually abusing her and being unconscious until the morning. Therefore, Steve and Claire want to make sure that it is not Claire's adoptive father, named Drey, who is doing it, and hope that everything is

misunderstood. Claire believes that it is not Drey who has injected the narcotics, and Mirriam admits it if she does that, as portrayed in the following:

“Drey buys vodka, not narcotics. But he injected narcotics into his arm. At my house there is a supply of syringes and for depression sedatives for Ryn. Drey could not possibly take narcotics” (Dee, 2020: 339).

“....I injected his arm and neck when he wanted to return to the room” (Dee, 2020: 398).

Mirriam does inject narcotics into Drey with the intention of making Drey unconscious and then rape her. She also says that she really wants Drey because he is so sexy. So the researchers can conclude that one of the mischievous behaviors that Mirriam engages in is injecting narcotics.

4.1.3 Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is one of the bad acts of mischievous behavior that Mirriam does in the novel *Unbroken Vow*. Mirriam sexually abuses Drey, Claire's adoptive father, where the person who does this is a 15-year-old girl to a married man. From this case, it is evident that sexual abuse is not only perpetrated on women but men as well. Moreover, sexual abuse can cause physical and mental illness.

“I am not doing anything, dude. All I remember is Mirriam coming to greet me. She seduced me, but for God's shake! I was angry and kicked her out. She was wearing sexy clothes, but I'm not thinking about raping my daughter's friend” (Dee, 2020: 311).

“I know right Drey is a bastard, but he will not think to do a rape with someone who is underage. There is something wrong Steve...” (Dee, 2020: 320).

After finding out Drey is unconscious due to the influence of narcotics, Steve and Drey's wife, Savana, still do not believe that it is Drey who sexually abuses Mirriam. Therefore, Mirriam approaches Drey, wearing sexy clothes, and she tries to seduce Drey. It is clear that Mirriam has bad intentions towards Drey. In addition, Claire tries to help Steve find other evidence.

“According to several articles I have found regarding sexual abuse, Drey's character should not fit this well. Drey buys vodka and fights with mom. But did he really take it out on a kid like Mirriam? He can find sex workers to satisfy him” (Dee, 2020: 338).

“This is so wrong. Cal, like you said, Drey could not have raped anyone. He is not an idiot who committed crimes in his own home with evidence strewn across the floor” (Dee, 2020: 339).

Drey is a man who is married, and he loves Savanna very much. He can contact sex workers to satisfy his desires. He is also a wealthy man who can do that. In addition, no one commits a crime and leaves evidence at the scene, unless the person

intentionally wants to cause trouble. Because of that, Claire and her friend, Caleb, come to Mirriam and ask her directly to make things clear.

“Who was raped you?” (Dee, 2020: 398).

“Chill out babe, no one raped me. I really wanted Drey, but he was so hard. Moreover, I had to drag him to the room without anyone else knowing” (Dee, 2020: 398).

“You're disgusting. You did penetration when Drey passed out. What a shame! You did the rape. You are the one who was sexually abused. I don't know what you're thinking about, but you're doing this just to hurt me and destroy my family? Unbelievable!” (Dee, 2020: 398).

4.1.4 Attacking Her Rival

Attacking someone is one of the bad things that can generally be committed to someone who is underage because they cannot control their emotions. They do this action because there is a factor that makes them emotional. For example, there are words that make them feel offended, and they feel angry about it and spontaneously attack the people around them. Mirriam attacks Claire, Caleb, and Archie. It is because of Claire's words that provoke her emotions.

“Heath Gramham has recorded everything you said. He sent it to the police, and tomorrow you will rot in a mental hospital” (Dee, 2020: 400).

“Mirriam screaming and throwing a cat carcass at me. After that, she attacks me with a pair of scissors” (Dee, 2020: 401).

Mirriam attacks Claire because Claire says there is someone who records everything that Mirriam says. The footage is evidence of the crime that Mirriam commits. Therefore, Mirriam is afraid if the footage reaches the police, she will end up being punished or put in a mental hospital because she is still underage. But Mirriam does not give up attacking Claire until she gets injured.

“Mirriam does not stop attacking. Even the scissors hit Archie's face and the kid bleeds. She grabs my hair again and tries to get the scissors up my neck, but I hold her hands” (Dee, 2020: 401).

“Take it off, Claire! Let me kill you” (Dee, 2020: 401).

“She tried to attack me again but failed. Heath comes to us and grabs Mirriam, so that she cannot attack us again. Now it is over” (Dee, 2020: 402).

Mirriam does not stop attacking Claire until someone stops her. If her desire to attack Claire is not satisfied, she will not give up. So it is fortunate that Heath is there and helps Claire from Mirriam's attack.

4.2. Reasons of Mischievous Behavior

The reasons of mischievous behavior according to Denis (2020), among others:

4.2.1 Having No Clear Boundaries

One must have clear boundaries in their life because if they do not have rules of life or even go beyond those limits, one's life will fall apart and be looked down upon by others. It is like Mirriam, who has no clear boundaries in her life, so she can do anything regardless of whether what she does is right or not.

“She steals small objects that escape the view of people, and keeps them in her locker. Now, no one wants to be friends with her” (Dee, 2020: 178).

“Mirriam addicted to tranquillizers. She steals tranquilizers at the pharmacy and also commits other thefts” (Dee, 2020: 205).

Mirriam does not have clear boundaries because she steals things that do not belong to her. If she has a bounds in her life, Mirriam would not have done such a bad thing. Even more, she keeps the items that she takes in a locker where students would be able to find them. Rather than hiding it in an unknown location like a normal thief, Mirriam steals it as if she is simply satisfying her desire. The items that Mirriam steals are not high-value items, but only small items of little value. Therefore, some of the students keep their distance from her as not to be influenced by Mirriam's bad behavior. But not only that, when Claire visits Mirriam's house and enters her room, she is confused and feels surprised at the same time because seeing Mirriam does an action that crosses the line.

“Mirriam sitting on the floor with her eyes closed. On the floor there is a big star in a circle. At each end of the star, there are white candles that half burnt, and in front of them there is the carcass of a dead stray cat. The circle is called the pentagram, and the dead cat is an offering to the devil. Mirriam makes an offering to the devil” (Dee, 2020: 395).

Mirriam makes an offering to the devil, which is wrong and crosses the line. That action that Mirriam does is not justified in any religion, because every religion teaches good things and beliefs are the foundation of life. If a person does not have that foundation, then she will do everything she wants, whether it is good or bad. So Mirriam is someone who does not have clear boundaries.

4.2.2 Being Bullied

Being bullied is one of the reasons Mirriam has mischievous behavior. Mirriam is an underage person who is emotionally unstable. So if she gets bad treatment in her school environment, it will make her think: why be nice if she is treated badly. Even more, school is a place where she spends a lot of time, and if the school environment is not pleasant, it would cause Mirriam to be mentally stressed and change her mindset.

“At the last turn of the corridor, Jade's shoulder bumps into a girl's shoulder. Jade growls harshly” (Dee, 2020: 168).

Jade is one of the exclusive students at school who has high popularity. Apart from having a pretty face, Jade also comes from a rich family and is quite smart at

school. Because her life is almost perfect, she looks down on the lives of others, including Mirriam. Moreover, Mirriam comes from a troubled family, and she looks messy at school. So there is no reason for Jade and her squad to bully Mirriam. When Mirriam bumps into her shoulder, Jade stares at her and wants to curse. But she holds back because she wants to maintain her image as a perfect girl in front of Claire. Also at lunch time, no one wants to sit with Mirriam as quoted below:

“I see that girl. She is sitting on the bench alone. No one seems to care about her. Because of the curiosity, I asked Jade who is she” (Honey Dee, 2020: 178).

“She is Mirriam Rivera, do not mind her” (Dee, 2020: 178).

Mirriam is sitting alone while the other students are sitting in groups. The school consists of several groups, so they make friends based on their class. For Mirriam, who does not belong to any group and ends up alone, she is only one of the bullied students. Jade also influences Claire to ignore Mirriam. Even during the next lunch time, Claire accidentally bumps into Mirriam and makes her lunch tray fall on the floor.

“Claire! Do not let that bitch get the attention. She is fucking loser!” (Dee, 2020: 195).

Jade does not let Claire help Mirriam because of Claire's mistake. Even though Claire wants to help Mirriam, because of Jade's words, she gives up. Meanwhile, Mirriam's face turns red and she looks down until her entire face is covered by her messy hair. Even though the other students do not like Mirriam either, there are some who feel sorry for her. But Jade does not let them pay any attention to Mirriam. Jade indirectly says that Mirriam's presence is not important and only disrupts the party. Even Jade says that to Claire in an angry tone and glares at her. Claire's act of inviting Mirriam is the worst for Jade.

“Mirriam does not have anyone. She is being bullied at school by Jade and the squad, so no one wants to be her friend. I think it is normal if her behavior is weird and the way she talks does not match with the conditions” (Dee: 238).

Besides many bad issues about Mirriam, like she steals some things and puts them in her locker, Jade is also one of the reasons why Mirriam does not have any friends. Even though the other students do not like Mirriam's mischievous behavior, at least they do not bully her. But Jade and her squad, who bully Mirriam at school, come from an influential family. Because the other students do not want to get into trouble with Jade, they listen to what Jade is saying about not being friends with Mirriam.

4.2.3 Having Problems at Home

A person's behavior is formed based on their environment. The first environment that has a big influence is the family environment. If a person lives in the midst of a bad family, then they will follow the bad behavior of their parents. However, if a teenager lives in a troubled family, they will not live according to the rules and have the potential to cause problems for others and themselves.

"Mirriam Rivera has a lot of trouble. Her mother goes crazy in the hospital. It is because her father always does physical abuse. Who knows? I think her mother is dead" (Dee, 2020: 178).

"Mirriam changed since her mother's death. She used to be a sweet, cheerful girl. But since her mother died, she has turned gloomy. She hates many things and starts doing bad things to other people or animals. I think she does not like seeing other people happy" (Dee, 2020: 403).

Mirriam's mother enters a mental hospital due to physical abuse by her father, therefore, Mirriam's psyche is disturbed and she has mischievous behavior due to witnessing things that should not be seen by an underage person. Moreover, Mirriam is very close to her mother. She has her own happiness when her mother is alive. But it is lost because of her father's bad behavior. When our happiness is taken away by others or destroyed by our family, it is very painful. Mirriam experiences mental stress from an early age due to living in a troubled family.

"I hear a girl's scream. That is Mirriam Rivera. An old man grabs Mirriam's arm roughly. He forces Mirriam into the white SUV" (Dee, 2020: 204).

"A teacher who saw that approached Mirriam's father. Mirriam used the opportunity to get out of the car. But her father faster than her and he pushed Mirriam's head harshly into the car" (Dee, 2020: 204).

"When the car passed me, I can see Mirriam pressing her face against the window. She looks very scared" (Dee, 2020: 204).

Mirriam's father is abusive to his family. It is evident when Mirriam screams, seeing her father. Even her arm is violently pulled and she is forced into the car. Moreover, Mirriam is treated badly in public. Her father does not care about the situation at school. It can have a bad influence on other students who see it. When the car is moving, Mirriam tries to get Claire's attention, and she hopes Claire can help her. But at least Claire cannot do anything to save Mirriam. She is traumatized by her own father and cannot forget the gloomy past. Through her reaction, she is treated badly at home.

"She is a weird girl. She got hit by her father it means she made a mistake" (Dee, 2020: 244).

"Parents should not beat their children, and treat them badly" (Dee, 2020: 244).

"I often hear that children from troubled families are weird. They harbor anxiety, disappointment, and wounds that cannot be healed. That is why many of them have bad behavior" (Dee, 2020: 238).

Even if children make a mistake, the best thing a parent should do is to give them good advice instead of judging or hitting them. It is like Mirriam; she is an

underage person and she needs guidance, affection, and attention from her parent. But due to her parent's own fault, she has mischievous behavior.

5. Conclusion

Mischievous behavior is an action that is usually caused by underage people, and it usually due to lack of attention from their parents. Mischievous behavior can cause harm not only to other people but also to the person who has the bad behavior himself. A person who has excessive desires is not good because they can do anything to fulfill their desires. The mental condition of underage people is unstable so that they need clear boundaries. The environment has an important influence on the behavior of a child in the future. Children usually follow the nature of their parents because their parents are the role models for them. The types of mischievous behavior conducted by the antagonist in this study are attacking her rival, sexual abuse, injecting narcotics and giving poison; while the reasons of mischievous behavior are having problems at home, being bullied and having no clear boundaries.

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