

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background of the Problem

Literature is a medium that allows us to transfer our thoughts and feelings into many forms, largely written. Considering that humans have always used literature as a medium to transfer their thoughts and feelings and make it physical, such as text and visual, even back before we started the modern era.

In this era of digitalization, a lot of things have changed, including literature. It transforms between mediums, from text to visual, to animation, or in this case, live action. Films have many genres, and for the past decades, superhero films have become the most-watched movie genre. According to NYFA (2017), the majority of the highest-grossing movies are superhero movies due to their ability to appeal to a wide range of audiences, regardless of age or background. Superheroes are universally recognized and admired characters, with many people having grown up reading comic books or watching superhero cartoons. This pre-existing fan base creates a built-in audience for the films, which in turn attracts new fans as well. And these films tend to have high production values, with visually stunning action sequences and impressive special effects. This can make for an immersive and entertaining viewing experience, especially when combined with a compelling story and well-developed characters. In addition, Superhero films often feature a mix of action, drama, and comedy and usually, these films can tackle all kinds of issues that the characters in it have to go through, making them appealing to a broad

range of movie-goers. The issues of mental health are among them. There is a huge collection of superhero movies that have dealt with mental health issues. The researcher chooses to discuss The Boys TV series, which is based on a comic book of the same name.

The Boys is an American superhero-drama comic series created by writer Garth Ennis and artist Darick Robertson. The Boys #1 is the first and debut issue of The Boys and the first part of Volume One: The Name of the Game. It was originally published on August 16, 2006. The story follows Hughie Campbell, who is on a mission to avenge his dead girlfriend after she was “liquified” by a *supes* (short for a superhero) with super speed by running straight through her. The vengeful Hughie then meets vigilante Butcher, who offers him a chance to pay revenge in exchange for exposing the dark side of the superhero community to the public. And then, after several encounters with other *supes*, they finally meet Homelander.

Homelander is the leader of The Seven, one of the strongest *supes* in the world. With the appearance of a movie star, chiseled features, a patriotic superhero suit, and the power of a god, he is considered to be the greatest superhero alive. Besides the ability to freely soar the sky, he also possesses super strength and hearing, as well as x-ray vision, which makes him see through nearly anything before destroying it with his laser eyes.

He presents himself as amiable, modest, and truthful; the ideal Boy Scout; a national treasure; and a God-fearing patriot. But even superheroes have their secrets. As the story went on, the researcher noticed that Homelander has several,

if not all signs of narcissistic personality disorder. An arrogant narcissist and sadistic psychopath who has no concern for the safety of the people he claims to be protecting.

Narcissistic personality disorder (NPD) is a mental disorder characterized by a pattern of an exaggerated sense of self-importance, an excessive need for admiration, a lack of empathy for others' feelings, and interpersonally exploitative behavior.

The purpose of this research is to help the general public raise awareness about the disorder and its effects on both individuals and society. Narcissism is real. It needs to be dealt with. By depicting characters who suffer from NPD, we may potentially reduce stigma and create more compassion and understanding for those who suffer from this condition. For instance, novels like "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald and "Gone Girl" by David Fincher highlight the destructive effects of this behavior. Additionally, studying narcissistic personality disorder through literature may offer a unique and insightful viewpoint on this complex disorder.

Those are the reasons why Homelander is interesting to analyze. The researcher decides to study the narcissistic personality disorder Homelander using the NPD theory proposed by Caligor, Levy, & Yeomans (2015) then determine the effects of it on Homelander's life.

## **1.2.Limitation of the Problem**

Due to the number of seasons in the series, the researcher will only analyze the first season and is focused on the signs of narcissistic personality disorder shown

by Homelander's character in the series and how they are expressed for the sake of this research to be more solid and in-depth.

### **1.3. Research Question**

1. How does narcissistic personality disorder reflect on Homelander?
2. How does narcissistic personality disorder affect Homelander's life?

### **1.4. The Objective of the Research**

1. To find out how narcissistic personality disorder reflects in Homelander.
2. To determine how narcissistic personality disorder influences Homelander's life.

