



**THE TRAGIC LIFE OF DAVE BOYLE IN  
DENNIS LEHANE'S *MYSTIC RIVER***

**A THESIS**

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for  
the Sarjana Degree Majoring Literature in English Department  
Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University**

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SEMARANG**

**2018**

## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

The writer would like to pronounce that the thesis entitled *The Tragic Life of Dave Boyle in Dennis Lehane's Mystic River* is compiled by herself without taking any results of other researchers in S-1, S-2, S-3, and in diploma degree of any university. The writer also ascertains that there are no illegal quotations from any material from other publications or someone's paper except for the reference mentioned.

Semarang, November 2018

Syifa Rahma Izzati

## MOTTO AND DEDICATION

*“You may delay, but time will not, and lost time is never found again.”*

—Benjamin Franklin

*“Do not hoard what seems good for a later place in the book, or for another book; give it, give it all, give it now.”*

—Annie Dillard

*This thesis is dedicated to*

*Myself, my beloved family and everyone*

*Who helped and supported me to accomplish this thesis*

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*Alhamdulillah* rabbil' alamin. As His slave, I cannot thank enough for the graces, miracles, and gifts Allah SWT has given to me for completing this thesis entitled *The Tragic Life of Dave Boyle in Dennis Lehane's Mystic River*. On this occasion, I would like also to express my gratitude to every person who contributed to the completion of this thesis.

My deepest gratitude and appreciation are extended to Dr. Ratna Asmarani, M.Ed., M.Hum, as my thesis advisor who has given me all her care, time, and knowledge while finishing the thesis. It is an honor for me having a great thesis supervisor like you.

So does every person mentioned below who has my deep gratitude and appreciation. It goes to the following:

1. Dr. Redyanto Noor, M.Hum as the Dean of Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University;
2. Dr. Agus Subiyanto, M.A as the Head of English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University;
3. Mr. Hadiyanto, S.S., M.Hum, my academic advisor;
4. All the lecturers in the English Department Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University, for their academic guidance, precious knowledge, and supports;
5. My beloved parents, Muhammad Nursholeh and Endang Aisyah, dearest brothers, sisters, Muhammad Nurdiansyah, Hafidz Ardiansyah, Firdaus

Ferdiansyah, Diyan Fajarwati, Nur Aisyah and lastly my lovely nephew, Bintang Nashwara Syahputra; thank you for the endless love, prayers, and support;

6. My new classmate and best friend, Cahya Pratama AP; thank you for the past year and a half for being such a good and supporting friend. Thank you for not giving up on me because of my laziness and thank you for being a person I can finally depend on.

7. My best friends; Nindya Kartika Sari, Khoirun Nisa Fesa Nugraheni, Reni Savira Utami, Dwi Candra Purnamasari, Astri Luthfiana Mediawati; thank you for your endless supports and prayers for me.

8. My special friend, Yunita TSSP; thank you for being a loyal friend of me for the past four years and thank you for each second we spent together.

9. My friends in English Department batch 2014 and KKN Danasari; thank you for every madness, laughter, and love. Thank you for the memories.

By not trying to show any humbleness, the writer is fully aware that this thesis is still far from perfection. All constructive criticism, recommendation, and suggestion are accepted gladly for the sake of the better research. Finally, the writer hopefully this thesis will be useful for the readers despite all the flaws.

Semarang, December 2018

Syifa Rahma Izzati

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## ABSTRACT

This research analyzes a novel written by Dennis Lehane entitled *Mystic River* and it focuses on one of the main characters, Dave Boyle, who has to live a life considered as a tragic life. The aim of this research is to analyze some factors behind the tragic life of Dave Boyle. The analysis is divided into two parts. The first one is to analyze the intrinsic elements; characters and characterizations, plot and conflicts. Meanwhile the second one is to analyze the extrinsic elements; tragic life, psychological impact on sexually abused victim and the stereotype of past sexually abused victim. The writer uses library-research method to collect data for the thesis analysis from books, journals, other researches and websites. The result of the analysis shows that the factors behind Dave Boyle's tragic life are the disaster he got which in this case is the kidnapping event, his psychological problems from the kidnapping event, and the negative reactions from the people around him after the kidnapping event. In the end, all the typical pattern found in tragic story appears in Dave Boyle's life journey and thus explains why Dave Boyle has a tragic life story.

Keywords: *tragic life story, psychological impact on sexually abused victim, stereotype of past sexually abused victim*

## ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini menganalisis sebuah novel yang ditulis oleh Dennis Lehane yang berjudul *Mystic River*. Fokus penelitian ini pada salah satu karakter utama yang bernama Dave Boyle, yang harus menjalani kehidupan tragedi. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui faktor-faktor dibelakang kehidupan tragedi yang dihadapi Dave Boyle. Penelitian ini dibagi menjadi dua bagian. Bagian pertama dibuat untuk menganalisis unsur intrinsik, yakni; tokoh dan penokohan, alur dan konflik. Bagian kedua dibuat untuk menganalisis unsur ekstrinsik, yakni; kehidupan tragedi, dampak psikologis korban kekerasan seksual, dan stereotip mantan korban kekerasan seksual. Dalam penelitian ini penulis menggunakan metode penelitian pustaka untuk mengambil data-data dari buku, jurnal, penelitian lainnya dan situs daring (dalam jaringan). Hasil analisis menunjukkan faktor-faktor dibelakang kehidupan tragedi Dave Boyle diantaranya adalah adanya ‘bencana’ yang dalam kasus ini adalah penculikan Dave Boyle saat kecil, dampak psikologisnya sebagai korban kekerasan seksual, dan reaksi negatif dari orang-orang sekitarnya setelah terjadinya penculikan tersebut. Pada akhirnya, semua pola yang ditemukan pada kisah kehidupan tragedi ada dalam perjalanan hidup Dave Boyle dan menerangkan secara jelas alasan kehidupan tragedi yang dialami Dave Boyle.

Kata Kunci: Kisah Kehidupan Tragedi, dampak psikologis korban kekerasan seksual, stereotip mantan korban kekerasan seksual,

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of Study

It is every person's dream to have a happy ending life story, especially for someone who has been living in a despair and miserable life. He or she would want for at least a little bit of happiness in his or her life, even though it is only at the end. When people watch or read certain stories with the tragic life of a hero, most of them would want the hero to get a happy ending life story. The rational explanation behind this obvious statement is because, in a happy ending situation, readers could feel hope or even satisfaction after spending time being intensely focused on a certain story. It gives them a positive, pleasant and satisfied feeling.

However, as time goes by, some people begin debating if a happy ending life story seems a bit irrational in real life. Because in real life, it is possible not always have a happy ending story in every situation. Some people also find enjoyment in a non-happy ending or a tragedy story, as much as people who enjoyed a happy ending story. Even some of the famous works of literature in history are tragic stories such as *Hamlet* by Shakespeare when Hamlet is about to find the truth behind his father's death, he meets numerous unfortunate events, or *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy where after Anna decides to leave her husband for another man and meets her tragic end, or the tragic life of a poor woman named Tess who is actually related to a noble family but ends up having misery from time to time in *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy and many more.

Later, tragedy develops into several genres such as comedy-tragedy, and romance-tragedy. It makes its way into another type of literary works like poem, short story, and novel by becoming the genre. Until now, tragedy becomes a popular cultural phenomenon where it is produced to bigger mass and even has its loyal readers. Some of the experts explain why tragedy has loyal readers is because it shows that there is no perfection in life. Scott W. Berg, an American author, and journalist, on his blog essay entitled *Why We're Drawn to Tragedy* (2012) explains four factors of the reasons why people love tragedy. First, tragedy snaps us to attention. It means that tragedy makes us realize the thing that sometimes being forgotten. For example, it makes us realize how precious our time is, how precious our family is and others examples. It brings us a moment to think that all things are mattered.

The second one is that tragedy imparts knowledge, whatever its cost in pain. Since what we face is a reality, it brings us more understanding of what all is around. Sometimes it is the thing that we never know about it the first time. Berg uses an example of the Irish, Jews, and African-Americans as the losing party in ethnic or sectional strife in historically oral and written memories stressing on the particulars while at the same time distrustful of outsiders. To make it easy, as in the famous idiom, there are two sides of the same coin.

Third, tragedy gives the “excitement” of discovering that life can be so much extreme, in its own particular ways. It expands our view of the world and makes it us understand at the same time. It gives us the feeling of knowing that

certain actions and events that we never knew exist or probably ever we thought, do happens.

The last one is that tragedy uncovers and provides more understanding of how the character lives. The character presents more complex characteristic, usually in order to give unfamiliar yet common feeling to the readers. Berg says that reading tragedy includes one final step to mirror up against ourselves to the characters conducted and choices in the story, regarding our own beliefs about our own characters.

Tragic theme story provides a wide range topic if it analyzed right and properly. It can full with many types of sciences, studies, and theories. One of the examples is the relation between the tragic theme and psychology. From psychology's point of view, it can detect the certain character's act and behavior within his/her tragic life. Another approach such as sociology is also one of the most common theories used to analyze the tragic or tragedy theme story.

For this thesis, a crime-based novel entitled *Mystic River* by Dennis Lehane is picked as the object of the research because of its content cognates to tragedy. For this crime-based novel, the protagonist would have faced social disorder and judgment from the people around him. In the end, it would be uncovered why Dave Boyle has to live such a tragic life.

## **1.2. Research Problems**

The research problems in this research are:

1.2.1. What are the factors causing Dave Boyle's tragic life?

1.2.2. How is the tragic life of Dave Boyle projected in the novel?

1.2.3. What is the impact of Dave Boyle's tragic life on the ending part of the novel?

### **1.3.Objectives of The Study**

The objectives of the study based on the research problems are:

1.3.1. To describe the factors causing Dave Boyle's tragic life.

1.3.2. To describe and understand how the tragic life of Dave Boyle is projected in the novel.

1.3.3. To describe the impact of Dave Boyle's tragic life on the ending part of the novel.

### **1.4.Previous Study**

As a proof of originality of this research, the writer provides some previous studies of the same object. In 2009, Vulcan Volkan Demirkan-Martin from University of Canterbury, New Zealand, wrote a thesis for his doctoral degree of the film adaptation of the novel, entitled *Queerable Spaces: Homosexualities and Homophobias in Contemporary Film*. Throughout the story, he said that there was an underground sexual space abuse, which leads the main character (Dave Boyle), experienced degradation of his hegemonic masculinity performance and was excluded from society. Thus, it became the reasons why the murder of Dave Boyle happened.

On a 2004 April issue journal of religion & film published by the University of Nebraska, there is an article written by Charlene P.E. Burns from the University

of Wisconsin-Eau Claire entitled *Mystic River: A Parable of Christianity's Dark Side*. Burns examined the movie adaptation of the novel through the hermeneutic of a visual story. He found the function of the church in the story as no other than just an institution. Its teaching does not have an impact on people's life. He uses an example of how at the beginning, Jimmy and Annabeth are very proud at the moment their younger daughter participates in Church event. However, after murdering Dave Boyle, both Jimmy and Annabeth feel there was nothing wrong in killing someone that risking their family life. Although Jimmy feels wrong having killed the wrong man, he does not feel guilty from having murder someone for the sake of his family.

Another study had conducted by Vimbai Chivungu from Umea University Sweden in 2006 for her undergraduate thesis entitled *Beneath the Surface: An Examination of Masculinity and Femininity in Dennis Lehane's Mystic River*. In her thesis, she stated that the novel explicitly praises typically masculine values but implicitly encourages criticism of these same ideals. She uses the example of the two pairs in the novel, Jimmy/Annabeth and Dave/Celeste. Jimmy/Annabeth represents the masculinity from their actions while Dave/Celeste represents passivity and femininity. Incompatible from the three previous studies, a different approach is chosen to be conducted in this research to avoid any plagiarism of the same novel.

### **1.5.Methods of The Study**

The analysis of the protagonist character in *Mystic River* uses a method of library research. Described by Wellek and Warren, students often use libraries as their

source of materials so they should have the knowledge and familiarity of catalogs as well as other references books (Theory of Literature, 1963: 3). By using a method of library research, the writer is able to collect resources from the experts' opinion. All resources originate from printed books and other media like electronic books and journal.

This study will analyze the intrinsic elements including characters and characterization, plot, and conflict. The three intrinsic elements are used to analyze the situation surround the story between the main character and other characters. In the extrinsic elements, the writer focuses on what are the factors of Dave Boyle's tragic life. The writer uses a tragic life approach as stated by Geoffrey Brereton in his book entitled Principles of Tragedy (1968), in the following quotation:

“The descriptive and ennobling function of ‘tragic’ must, in short, be admitted as an exception to what has already been said. It does not preclude an ultimate recovery. But apart from this usage.. it is generally true that ‘tragic’ contains the option of a disaster which cannot be remedied. This can reasonably be taken as a starting point”. (Brereton, 1968: 8).

Meaning that to prove the tragic journey of Dave Boyle, the writer must find some evidence regarding events, dialogues, and related part of the story. It has to be something that contains an unsolved problem, leaving the main character in a tragic ending. The writer will also emphasize the psychological impact of a sexually abused victim to add the explanation of Dave Boyle's tragic life. Using the events happened from the beginning of his life until the end. Not to forget the stereotype of a sexually abused victim, as there is a stereotype surrounding the cycle of victims and perpetrators, in order to help the focus of this research.



## **1.6.Organization of The Thesis**

This thesis is divided into five chapters, those are: Introduction, Author and His Work, Theoretical Framework, Analysis and Conclusion.

### **CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION**

Introduction presents the Background of the Study, the Research Questions, the Obejctives of the Study, the Previous Studies, the Methods of the Study and the Organization of the Study.

### **CHAPTER II: AUTHOR AND HIS WORK**

This chapter serves a biography of the author and his work that is used as the object of this research.

### **CHAPTER III: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

This chapter explains the theoretical framework which supports the study of the thesis. The theories deal with the definition and explanation of both intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The intrinsic elements consist of character, conflict, and setting. Meanwhile, the extrinsic elements include the psychology impact of kidnapping victim, the stereotype of sexual abused victim, and the tragic life of character in a novel.

### **CHAPTER IV: ANALYSIS**

It contains the explanation about the main object of the research the novel *Mystic River*. The explanation correlates both the intrinsic and extrinsic elements.

**CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION**

It contains the conclusion of the over-all analysis explained in the previous chapters.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **AUTHOR & HIS WORK**

This chapter contains the author's biography and the summary of the novel. Both are mentioned clearly as follow:

#### **2.1. Biography of the Author**

From his own website on [dennislehane.com](http://dennislehane.com), Dennis Lehane is an American author, born on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1965 in Dorchester near Boston, Massachusetts. He is famous for his crime and mystery genre works. Some of his works entitled *Gone Baby Gone* (1998), *Shutter Island* (2003), *The Drop* (2014) are adapted into film.

According to Anderson in his book entitled *The Triumph of the Thriller: How Cops, Crooks, and Cannibals Captured Popular Fiction* (2007: 197), Lehane wrote *Mystic River* (2001) as his master thesis's final project. He observed the Boston neighborhood at that time and tried to put a blue-collar crime situation, which he always wanted to do. Another fact behind the creation of *Mystic River* was his experience of getting into a stranger's car that tricked him as a cop to his house.

#### **2.2. Summary**

Setting in Boston, a traumatic experience happened in the memory of three best friends, Dave Boyle, Sean Devine, and Jim Marcus. Sean and Jim became witnesses for the kidnapping of Dave while they were playing together in their neighborhood. Few days later, Dave went back home. There was no clear explanation of what

happened to Dave since he did not want to talk about it. However, instead of pitying him for what had happened, people around him labeled him as a sexually abused victim. Thus, it made Dave isolated from society.

Twenty years later, a case happened and brought them back together. This time, Jim's eldest daughter was lost out of nowhere. Until later, Sean, who happened to be a detective found Jim's eldest daughter dead body in a hole of the no longer used park. Jim felt devastated and determined to find out who was the killer of his daughter. Meanwhile, Dave was living throughout his life with the haunted experience from the past. He never told anyone around him of what had happened with his past, including his wife. That led to a miscommunication between him and his wife. When he went back home at the same night of Jim's daughter being murdered, with blood on his shirts, his wife started to get suspicious of him.

After that night, people around him started getting more suspicious of him because of his weird behaviors, constant lies, and his past of being a sexually abused victim. They, including his wife, Sean, and Jim, wondered whether he was the killer of Jim's daughter. Until the day after Dave got mad with his wife for accusing him as the murder, his wife was certain that Dave was the killer and she told Jim about it.

Later, Jim asked to meet Dave in Mystic River. Jim cornered him whether he killed his daughters or not. Dave, of course, did not confess. However, Jim made a negotiation with him that if Dave could just only confess, then Jim would only bring him to jail and not kill him. Dave, who was desperate to live, lied to him about

killing Jim's daughter. His naivety thought that Jim would release him, as soon as he gave the fake confession to satisfy him. In the end, Jim killed Dave and drowned his body in Mystic River.

In the morning, Sean met Jimmy, asking whether or not he had seen Dave. Sean told Jimmy that the police had identified the killer of his daughter. The killer was Katie's lover's mute brother and his friend. They were playing with a real gun on the street just to scare people off who passed by. They want to scare Katie but the gun went off, but not killing her at the moment. She ran away, but they chased her thinking she would report this to anyone. Then after she fell from running, they beat her with a hockey stick they brought until dead. Feeling devastated, Jimmy answered with a rhetorical answer to Sean that Dave had long gone since they were children, at the moment Dave decided to get inside the pedophilia's car.

## CHAPTER 3

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter will discuss the theories which are used to analyze *Mystic River* by Dennis Lehane. The theories are divided into two types. They are intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements. The theory of intrinsic elements which will be discussed are characters and characterization, plot, and conflict. The extrinsic elements which are going to be discussed are tragic life, psychological impact of kidnapped victims and stereotype.

#### 3.1. Intrinsic Elements

Intrinsic elements are the basic elements of analyzing a story. There are many kinds of intrinsic elements, however the writer will only focus on three elements which are characters and characterization, plot and conflict.

##### 3.1.1. Characters and Characterization

A character takes an important part of a story because the plot of the story can only exist with characters. A character does not have to be a person. It can be an animal, just like in fables. In most stories, there are always a major character and minor character. A major character is usually the one who puts in a situation that contains a problem he/she must overcome. Meanwhile, a minor character is usually the one who either helps or hinders the major character's attempt to solve his/her problem.

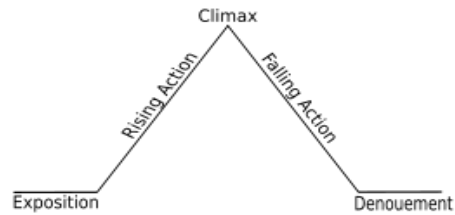
Character analyzing includes the character's dialogues, appearances, actions, environments, types, and motivations. Sutton in his *An Introduction to Literature* (1971: 49), said that a character can be divided into four types; flat

character, round character, static character, and dynamic character. Characterization is divided into two categories, which are direct and indirect characterization. Direct characterization includes information of the character given to the readers explicitly by the author. For example, like in a narration, the author mentioning directly about how the character looks like or what kind of person the character is. Meanwhile, indirect characterization gives indirect/implicit information of the character.

### **3.1.2. Plot**

The author of the story acts like a God for his/her characters, creating their life as pleased as he/she could. Just like a person's life, a story consists of several incidents, events, actions of a certain character, which later leads the character into a decision-making, revelation, and realization. Thus make what story the author wants to tell and how he/she going to make it as pleased as he/she could is what we called a plot.

In analyzing plot, Freytag on his book *An Exposition of Dramatic Composition and Art* which has been translated by Elias J. MacEwan (2008: 36) mentions there are five parts in a basic structure of plot based on his study from Aristotle's theory of tragedy. They are exposition (introduction), rising action, climax, falling action and denouement (catastrophe). He shows it with a pyramid structure to explain explicitly how each part functioned in a plot.



([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plot\\_\(narrative\)#/media/File:Freytags\\_pyramid.svg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plot_(narrative)#/media/File:Freytags_pyramid.svg))

Freytag says that each part is peculiar in purpose and in construction. In exposition, the story will mostly start by introducing characters, the relationship of each character, even their morals. In rising action, the story will begin its conflict. Usually, it is related to the main character so that later the main character will try to end the conflict. In the third part, the main character reaches the climax of the conflict of the story. In the falling action part, the story will consist even lead to the ending. In denouement (catastrophe), the conflict ends and the main character will either have a happy ending or sad ending story. He also adds the two kinds of plot based on how the story is told; chronological and non-chronological plot. The chronological plot is how the plot in a story presented in sequence. It goes from the beginning part, the middle part then the ending part. Meanwhile, the non-chronological plot is how the plot in a story presented not in a sequence.

### **3.1.3. Conflict**

In literature, conflict is the central issue and the factor that makes the story moves. A novel has the possibility to have many conflicts. Literary conflict includes internal conflict and external conflict. Lamb in her book entitled *The Art and Craft of Storytelling* (2011: 47) says that internal conflict is a conflict which focuses on a character and her/himself.



Meanwhile, external conflict is a conflict which focuses on the character and the external factors. For example is where conflict arises between a character with another character, like the protagonist and the antagonist. Another example is a conflict which a character has with nature or with a society and so on.

### **3.2. Extrinsic Elements**

Extrinsic elements are the elements that help to analyze a story in a wider understanding. There are three elements the writer picked to discuss. They are tragic life, psychological impact of kidnapped victims, and stereotype.

#### **3.2.1. Tragic Life**

The words “tragic” and “tragedy”, does not just have similarity in a text, but also in meaning. In a description from Merriam-Webster Dictionary, “tragic” is an adjective word meaning something regrettably serious or unpleasant. Meanwhile for “tragedy”, it is a noun word defining a disastrous event. In the literary world, the use of the word tragedy explains a serious drama with the protagonist having a conflict followed by a sorrowful or disastrous conclusion that elicits pity or terror. The example of famous tragedies in terms of play like Greek tragedy are Orestes by Euripides, Agamemnon by Aeschylus, and even Shakespeare’s works such as Hamlet, Macbeth, and Romeo Juliet.

Brereton, a scholar, and critic specialized in French and Spanish Literature, in his book *Principles of Tragedy: A Rational Examination of the Tragic Concept in Life and Literature* (1968) stated what the word “tragedy” usually implied.

“A ‘tragedy’ in ordinary usage always implies disaster, usually resulting in death. When death occurs in the natural course of things and cannot fairly

be called disastrous it is hardly a 'tragedy'. To qualify as one it must take place in unexpected and striking circumstances. It must, at the least, be in some way remarkable." (Brereton, 1968: 3)

Being implied to disaster in its ordinary usage, the word "tragedy" also has a correlation to the first description from the Merriam-Webster Dictionary which is something regrettably serious or unpleasant. Disaster is something that almost all of people try to avoid, even though sometimes it cannot be prevented. It is unexpected and striking in a certain circumstance of one who experiences it. In the story, it is expected to be the final blow off someone's life that guarantees to bring sympathy to the character, or in the case of part of the story, a sad ending. In addition he said that "The disaster is envisaged as final so far as those in particular people or events are concerned. That is, no recovery is contemplated, there is no prospect of a 'happy ending' "(Brereton, 1968: 6). Thus, given the first interpretation of what is a tragedy.

When talking about death in tragedy, Brereton said it is not always involving death to qualify someone's life as a tragic life. Although one could not deny that death is the final condition of someone's life, because there is no 'real' story of coming back from the dead except fantasy or supernatural. However, death does not need to be one of the disasters. Disaster in someone's life is enough to bring only the misery of the person. One could face several disasters in life, but not total. In conclusion, tragic life requires a disaster happening in someone's life, with no chance of recovery, but it does not have to be "the death" as the final disaster.

Brereton explains more about two sets of circumstances when disaster coming to someone's life. He said that, "The first one is the direct result of

deliberate action by an enemy..., and the other one is ‘natural calamity’ which could not have been foreseen or prevented” (Brereton, 1968: 3). However, there is one particular factor, which includes both of the circumstances, being the scope of tragic elements. He introduces the factor of failure, which is the circumstance of which the character, who already in the weaker situation from disasters, has a chance of winning, but fail.

In the case of a tragic story including death, he said: “In fact, the more trivial the cause of failure (provided it is not something completely ridiculous), the more ‘tragic’ this death will appear” (Brereton, 1968: 13). Meaning that even though in the story the character is given a chance of getting out from the miserable life or ending the disastrous life, there is no way of the character winning it. It goes back to the point that in a tragic story, even though that there is recovery contemplated but it is a guarantee of no ‘happy ending’.

### **3.2.2. Psychological Impact on Sexual Abused Victim**

A study is conducted by several psychologists to abused victims in order to know what happens to them after the incident. One of the psychologists is Kappler, in which she writes a book entitled *Living with the Paradoxes* (2012) about how abused victims handle their life and how they view the world after the incident. She states that,

“After having survived the extremeness of a violent attack, everyday life goes on, albeit continuously filtered through the prism of the latter experience. Hence, violence generates a paradox between the immanent singularity of the violent event and the contextual plurality of everyday life”. (Kappler, 2012:11)

Kappler explained that after having survived from the abuse event, the victims' life will seem fine from the outside, that it is same as the living of their life before. However, the victims also admit how the past event makes them change the way they live or the way they view the world. Mostly they have less trust to people outside their family. In the worst case, they build a traumatic feeling affecting their psychological life. Some of them include a self-destructing-act, isolation, and damaging his/her social surrounding.

Kappler's opinion is supported by Allender's words in his book *The Wounded Heart: Hope For Adult Victims Of Childhood Sexual Abuse* (1990: 30) which states that the memories of past abuse can be integrated with conjecture, fantasy, and imagination. In these cases, we could see it clearly in children victims' behavior where they tend to have a fantasy image of the memories of past abuse as a way of denial or a way of forgetting the event. Sometimes it makes people around them hard to know for sure what is going on when the event happened. They also reveal intense anger, depression, and tend to keep blaming themselves for what happened. In addition, they often have to face the external factors in the form of labeling and bullying by their friends.

### **3.2.3. Stereotype**

Generally, a stereotype or a stereotyping is to implicate a person or a group of people into an idea or belief about the person (a group of people) based upon small observation. Since it is based upon small observation, sometimes it does not show the accurate truth. It might lead to the wrong judgment to the person (a group of people). As mentioned by Blum in his paper entitled *Stereotypes and Stereotyping:*

*A Moral Analysis* (2004: 254), stereotype originates in a social or cultural process. Usually, when individuals are acquiring stereotype, it comes from one individual tries generating an image of groups out of his/her own experience. As an example is someone who meets a violent black man, then he/she generalize this characteristic to the whole group.

However, there is a possible truth between stereotypes. Blum says that stereotypes correspond to the comparatively greater presence of the stereotypic trait in the target group than in other groups. He picked an example of how Irish people are seen as alcoholics. It is because there is a greater presence of alcoholism in Irish people. He also mentions the existence of comparative statistics such as wealth, health, crime commission, education and so on, that enables people to assess forms and levels of injustice in societies (Blum, 2004: 256-258).

As in crime commission, there is a stereotype on the people who commit the crime. That is, there is a certain circle of crime victim becoming a criminal. In a paper belonging to Abbe Smith who uses to be an indigent criminal defense lawyer from Georgetown University entitled *The "Monster" in All of Us: When Victims Become Perpetrators* (2005: 369), says that prosecutors often find out a criminal's background stories related to the crime he/she committed recently. He also says that it is rare to handle a case where the criminal does not have a victim-background related story, only those who are in real meanness or madness will do such a crime.

Another stereotype comes from the victims of the abuse in which they often commit the crime as a part of their revenge. The article entitled *Childhood Bullies*

*and Victims and Their Risk of Criminality in Late Adolescence* (2007: 548) by Sourander et al., shows the result of frequent bullies or bully-victims accounted for only 8.8% of the sample (567 criminals). However, from 8.8% of the sample, they were responsible for 33% of all crimes and 23.4% of violent crimes. In addition, the number gets higher when the frequent bullies or bully-victims have a high level of psychiatric symptoms while not having any psychological help treatment. Therefore, the statements above are used as strong evidence to prove the existence stereotype among criminals, which is the stereotype of victims-turned-perpetrators.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **4.1. Intrinsic Elements**

##### **4.1.1. Characters and Characterizations**

###### **4.1.1.1. Dave Boyle**

By looking at the development of Dave's character, it is clear to say that Dave's character is a round character. He always develops into a new environment of the story. Most of the time, he acted just as the society around him wants him to be. Discussion below would explain clearly the development of Dave's character.

“Jimmy and Sean would play in the backyard, sometimes with Dave Boyle, a kid with girl's wrists and weak eyes who was always telling jokes he'd learned from his uncles” (Lehane, 2006: 14).

Dave Boyle is one of the main characters and also a protagonist in Dennis Lehane's *Mystic River*. His physical appearance when he was 11 years old as mentioned in the above quotation seems like a common skinny kid in his ages. Dave has a background as a child from single parent, living with his mom only in a small rented-flat. A statement of some uncles come to his house indicates that his mother probably a prostitute. The author describes how the place where Dave lives is a surrounding of homeless people, or people who lives under the same roof in a small apartment. Not forget to mention the street that full of trash. Children go to public school and sometimes wear the same outfit for two or three days.

Dave does not have many friends in school. The beginning of his friendship with Jim Marcus is because of Jim's father pity toward Dave, since Dave has no father figure. Then later he becomes friend with Sean Divine, who is Jim's friend.

Both Jim and Sean actually do not like Dave that much. Because they see Dave as someone whom with, they do not want to spend together. Dave knows it. Still, Dave always tries to be nice with them and loves to cheer up his friends.

Dave Boyle was at his most aggravating when Jimmy was like this. Dave Boyle seemed to think it was his job to make sure everyone was happy, which usually just pissed people off after a while (Lehane, 2006: 4).

In this event, Jim Marcus is in a bad mood, and just like what Dave always does, he starts to make joke to cheer his friends up. Although both Jim and Sean do not give any reaction at all.

Dave's drastic change of behavior happens after the abduction. He suffers from nightmare coming from the abduction that every time it came, Dave would try to shut them out by closing his eyes. In addition, his friends from school make it worse by bullying and labelling Dave as a pedophile's victim. His mother, who should be supporting Dave, turns out being the one who close Dave's relation to the outside world. At time where Dave needs affection most, he is being shut down and instead asked to forget it. It is not an easy thing to do for Dave. In consequence, Dave becomes a quiet person and rarely goes out again with his friends.

Dave's mother wouldn't let him leave the house anymore, except to go back and forth from school. She was convinced those men were still out there, waiting, driving that car that smelled of apples, and homing in on Dave like heat-seeking missiles (Lehane, 2006: 10).

Around reaching adulthood and being married, Dave's character seems to stay on the track that he can be characterized as a flat character. Yet, when there is a murder happens and how the people around him turns their back on him, he constantly back and forth changes his behavior from the quiet Dave into the aggressive Dave. Dave later admitted there are two different souls inside his body,



which makes him seen as two different persons. One person is the weak-Dave, and the other is the boy who had escaped from the wolves. One of examples when Dave turned into the boy was when he murdered a pedophilia.

The faceless creature reached up another rung in the fence, and then his energy left him. He fell back down and tilted to his right, ended up sitting against the fence, his legs splayed, his faceless face watching Dave come.

“No,” he whispered. “No.”

But Dave could tell he didn’t mean it. He was as exhausted with who he’d become as Dave was. The Boy knelt in front of the guy and placed the wrapped-up ball of flannel shirt against his torso, just above the abdomen, Dave floating above them now, watching.

“Please,” the guy croaked.

“Sssh,” Dave said, and the Boy pulled the trigger. The faceless creature’s body jerked hard enough to kick Dave in the armpit, and then the air left it with the whistle of a kettle.

And the Boy said, Good (Lehane, 2006: 348).

In the quotation above, the faceless creature was referred to the pedophilia Dave murdered. However when the action happens, Dave believed it is all the boy’s action as Dave would have never strong enough to have a desire to kill the pedophilia. The boy’s personality is seen as someone who is the opposite personality of Dave. The boy is cruel and unapologetic murder. That explains the constant changing between Dave and the boy’s soul into Dave’s body. It is likely fit to confirm that Dave has the round character type than a flat type.

Another type of characterization of Dave Boyle is as a protagonist. The writer’s decision to put Dave Boyle as a protagonist is through his collection of conflicts that he has to face in the story. Supported by his background story as a sexual abused victim, Dave’s life afterwards is apparently full of another conflicts, both coming from himself and his surroundings. Even after he decides to kill the pedophilia, he gets our sympathy because we know he has a reason to do it. He has

been living in a hard life ever since the abduction and sexual abused. His killing act is seen as a redemption which the readers fully understand the moment he done it. Later Dave seems a little “over-proud” of what he is doing, and it changes how he sees the world.

#### **4.1.1.2. Jimmy Marcus**

Jimmy Marcus is one of the main characters in Dennis Lehane’s *Mystic River*. Born as a son of truck driver, he lives in the same neighborhood with Dave. Little Jimmy has always been wild. He always acts like there is no worry for him. One of the example how wild little Jimmy is stated in the quotation below.

Jimmy walked over to the sawhorses, where city crews had been replacing several squares of sidewalk. The work crews had tied yellow caution tape to four sawhorses in a rectangle, created a barricade around the new sidewalk squares, but Jimmy snapped the tape by walking through it. He squatted at the edge, his Keds on the old sidewalk, and used a twig on the soft pavement to carve thin lines that reminded Sean of old men’s finger (Lehane, 2006: 20).

A little act of rebellious shown by Jimmy is carving the soft pavement of a construction by using a twig or a small kind of branch. This type of action is seen brave and wild by his friends, Sean and Dave. Sean know it was wrong, yet he admits to himself that he wants to do the ‘breaking the rules’ action even though his father may have punished him. Even though in the end, Sean do nothing. Meanwhile at the same time, Dave already finds his own twig and started to draw a circle on the pavement. Seemingly, Dave’s action proving that he will just do anything in order to make himself a great friend to Jimmy by doing exactly the same thing. Back to interpretation of Jimmy’s action, it is described that Jimmy just walks through the yellow tape of construction site and then crave the soft pavement with a twig. It seems that Jimmy is a kid who always acts without thinking the

consequences. He just does not care enough about the consequences of his action, even though some of his actions including breaking the rules.

His rebels get worse later after he steal a car which makes him expelled from his school and had to transfer to all-black-students school, all only in his final year of sixth grade. At 17, Jimmy had a child with his first wife, Marita, who later died because of cancer. At 22, Jimmy was being thrown in jail after breaking in a store and had to serve in the Deer Island House of Corrections in Winthrop. Jimmy's character is still in the same route as he is created as sort of a troublemaker. Even his neighbors are aware of his character as a troublemaker. His character is determined as flat character.

“They say it’s in your blood,” Annabeth said.

“What?”

“Stealing, crime.” She shrugged. “You know.”

Jimmy smiled at her around his beer bottle, took a sip.

“Is it?” she said.

“Maybe.” It was his turn to shrug. “Lotta things are in my blood. Doesn’t mean they have to come out” (Lehane, 2006: 106).

Meanwhile for another type of characterizations, the writer decides to choose for Jimmy Marcus as a protagonist role. The decision to put his role as a protagonist is involving analyzation of his actions toward Dave Boyle. We have known that Dave Boyle is always seen as “the freak” among his friends, including Jimmy and Sean. However as we read through the story, it is hardly proven that Jimmy is being mean to Dave. In fact, Jimmy lets him to play with him and Sean. Meanwhile the later seems dislike Dave at the first time. Their friendship remains until both of them having a family. Even, Dave is eventually married to Jimmy’s wife’s cousin.

There is a moment indeed, after Dave's abduction, and the rumor of him being sexually abused reach everyone in school, that he and Dave slightly part ways. With Dave, who at that time, is not allowed again by his mother to go outside home except for school and Jimmy being friend with Val, another trouble-maker, the two find it hard for themselves being close like they used to be. Also not forget to mention, the fact that Jimmy spent his youth being criminal, and eventually got himself in jail for two years which is something Dave is far from.

Another thing to describe Jimmy's character is that even though he is a trouble maker, he gets protective and loving feeling for his own family. After the death of his first wife, he feels devastated as he could not be with her because he is in jail. At the moment when he is released from jail, he makes himself sure that he is not going to do stupid things again that requires him to go to jail. He is devoted to raise his daughter. All in all is for his daughter only, Katie.

This daughter—this *creature*, living and breathing and partially formed in so many ways—was dependent on him now, whether either of them liked it or not.

"She's smiling down at us from heaven," Jimmy told Katie. "She's proud of us. Real proud."

Katie said, "Do you have to go back to that place again?"

"Nope. Never again" (Lehane, 2006: 51).

From that moment he begins to change himself by working at a store as cash register and eventually ran a store of his own. His life seems complete again after he marries Annabeth and having two more daughters.

The murder of Katie once again becomes the hitting point in his life as he decides to find the murderer. It is like opening the old tiger who has been caged for ages. He believes that his daughter's death is not fair, and that he should take a

revenge. Few times the novel mentions how devastated Jimmy is of his daughter's death. The author describes his feelings with some flashbacks when she is still around.

Annabeth and the girls had cried all last night, filled the apartment with their weeping, and Jimmy had figured he'd join them any second. But he hadn't. He had screamed on that slope when he saw the look in Sean Devine's eyes that told him his daughter was dead. Screamed himself hoarse. But outside of that, he hadn't been able to feel anything. So he sat on the porch now and willed the tears to come (Lehane, 2006: 171).

From the analysis above, a conclusion can be made regarding Jimmy's trait and characteristic. He is wild, hard to control and fearless. Until the death of his wife and a burden on his shoulders over having to raise his daughter alone, he changes to the better version of himself. He starts to cage his wilderness and shows his love and care to his family.

The moment Dave's wife, Celeste, tells him about her suspicion of her husband being the killer of Katie makes Jimmy enraged. He feels betrayed that a man he knows for almost all of his life kills someone he cared so much. He is blind by anger that he decides to believe Celeste's accusations without confirming himself. Later he kills Dave for what he called as a price of revenge, only to find out in the end that the police confirmed that the murder of his daughter was not Dave. The false murder on Dave leaves Jimmy wrecked as he never felt so wrong before. The poor Dave who used to be his friend is dead because of misunderstanding. He first did not want to believe Sean's report regarding the arresting of the real murder of Katie Marcus. However as Sean reports it fully, Jimmy finally realizes that he has killed the wrong man. For a moment, he has a lot of thought to confess his act. However his wife Annabeth, who knows what he has

done, assures him that what he does was an act of protecting his family and there is nothing wrong with that.

“I told them that their Daddy loved *them* that much, too. That he had four hearts and they were all balloons and they were all filled up and aching. And your love meant we’d never have to worry. And Nadine said, ‘Never?’”  
“Please.” Jimmy felt like he was crushed under blocks of granite. “Stop.”  
She shook her head once, holding him in her calm eyes. “I told Nadine, ‘That’s right. Never. Because Daddy is a king, not a prince. And kings know what must be done—even if it’s hard—to make things right. Daddy is a king, and he will do—’”  
“Anna—”  
“—he will *do* whatever he has to do for those he loves. Everyone makes mistakes. Everyone. Great men try to make things right. And that’s all that matters. That’s what great love is. That’s why Daddy is a great man”  
(Lehane, 2006: 330)

In the epilogue part of the story, Jimmy decides not to blame himself too much for his guilt. He starts accepting himself as monster whose has been living inside of him. He does not want to change it because he is different and furthermore, does not care about what everyone is thinking. This reminds us with the wild behavior and thinking that Jimmy has in the past. In reality, Jimmy never loss the wilderness in himself, and decides to just let it out now.

#### **4.1.1.3. Sean Devine**

Sean Devine is one of the main characters in Dennis Lehane’s *Mystic River*. Unlike both of his friends, Sean’s father is a foreman and his family lives in a neighborhood that has a better environment than Dave and Jimmy. Sean also goes to different school, a private school who has better environment than the public school Dave and Jimmy attend.

Sean begins his friendship with Jimmy because their father used to work together before. Upon becoming friend with Jimmy, Sean also becomes friend with Dave who follows Jimmy everywhere. Witnessing Jimmy’s behavior from time to

time, Sean has been growing up feeling of admiration to Jimmy. He is amazed at how Jimmy does not care about everything around him and just do what he wants. Stuff like breaking the rules impresses Sean, and it makes him want to do the same as Jimmy.

Jimmy walked over to the sawhorses, where city crews had been replacing several squares of sidewalk. The work crews had tied yellow CAUTION tape to four sawhorses in a rectangle, created a barricade around the new sidewalk squares, but Jimmy snapped the tape by walking through it. He squatted at the edge, his Keds on the old sidewalk, and used a twig on the soft pavement to carve thin lines that reminded Sean of old men's fingers. "My dad don't work with yours anymore."  
"How come?" Sean squatted by Jimmy. He didn't have a stick, but he wanted one. He wanted to do what Jimmy did, even if he didn't know why, and even though his father would strap his ass if he did (Lehane, 2006: 4).

Wanting to be closer with Jimmy, Sean starts developing hate to Dave. He has seen Dave as the parasite in his friendship with Jimmy. Sean thought that Dave does not belong to their friendship.

After the abduction of Dave Boyle, it seems like their friendship got faded, because Dave is not allowed to go out again by his mother except for school and Jimmy gets wilder as he befriends with Val, the trouble maker. Also, in the beginning of their friendship, Sean's mother actually does not like Jimmy very much. All of the three side of stories are reasonable enough to explain why their friendship is fading.

After the abduction of Dave, Sean feels terrified as he also almost becomes the victim. The incident of the abduction makes him traumatized as he always remembers the inside of the abductor's car. 20 years later, Sean works as a detective and gets another case that requires him to go back to his childhood neighborhood.

The case is the murder of an unknown woman. After he identifies her, he knows that it is the daughter of his friend, Jimmy.

As he goes back to his childhood neighborhood, he tried to uncover the murder by following the clues as he supposes to do, with his partner Sgt. White. One day, all clues points to Dave as he is one of the last one seen Katie before she dies. However, Sean remains professional by not quickly accusing him just like his partner. This act is seen as contradictive behavior because of what we know from childhood that Sean does not like Dave. It may be because Sean is just trying to be professional for his job as detective. Otherwise, it can be also he now holds his strong sympathetic feeling towards Dave.

Through the glass storefront, they could see Dave at the counter, talking to the clerk.

Whitey said, "The blood CSS scraped off the ground in the parking lot could have been there for days. We got no proof anything ever happened there but a bar fight. Guys in the bar say it didn't happen that night? It could have happened the day before. It could have happened that afternoon. There's no causal connection between the blood in that parking lot and Dave Boyle sitting in his car at one-thirty. But there *is* one helluva causal connection between him in that car when Katie Marcus left the bar." He clapped Sean's shoulder. "Come on, let's go up."

Sean took a last look across the avenue as Dave handed cash to the clerk in the liquor store. He felt sorry for Dave. No matter what he may have done, Dave just elicited that in a person—pity, unrefined and a little bit ugly, sharp as shale (Lehane, 2006: 202).

However, his feeling wavers once he knows from his father, who used to work in police department too, that Dave's abductors are criminally recorded sexual abusers. While Sean and Sgt. White interrogate him, they found that Dave's act weird but they still lack of evidences to process it. Until he finds out later that it is not Dave who murders Katie.



The missing of Jimmy in the end of the story remains mystery to the people in the neighborhood. However, Sean feels sure that it is Jimmy's responsibility. Even though there is no evidence beside Celeste's confession to Jimmy about her suspicion toward her husband. In addition, the relationship between the three of them makes Sean knows what his friends would do in such situation.

And he thought of Dave Boyle, and he wished he'd bought him that beer like he'd promised on the second day of the investigation. He wished he'd been nicer to him when they were kids, and that Dave's father hadn't left him, and his mother hadn't been nuts, and that so many bad things hadn't happened to him. Standing along the parade route with his wife and child, he wished a lot of things for Dave Boyle. But peace mostly. More than anything, he hoped Dave, wherever he was, got a little of that (Lehane, 2006: 344).

Realizing how pitiful Dave's life was, especially his being a not good enough friend when Dave was around, Sean promises to Celeste that he will find justice for Dave. By analyzing this part, Sean's character is determined as a round character.

#### **4.1.1.4.Celeste Boyle**

Celeste Boyle is one of the supporting characters in Dennis Lehane's *Mystic River*. She is Dave Boyle's wife and a cousin of Annabeth Marcus, Jimmy's second wife. She is an only child. Her childhood is spent for taking care of her sick mother, and probably that is why she becomes a quiet person.

“When she was little, Celeste used to imagine all those almost-sisters and almost-brothers floating around Limbo and think, You caught a break” (Lehane, 2006: 52).

Eventually, Celeste marries Dave Boyle because she thinks that Dave is good-looking and funny. At the first time, Dave has a decent job but later he gets fired because of the massive firing from his office he works for. Even though later

Dave is accepted in another job, there is still money problem in their family. Celeste always worries about their lack of money, and debts from her mother's funeral and burial. She also worries about her son's future education. These problems seem growing up inside her head that she turns into a pessimist person. She even thinks that her life will never be as enjoyable as she wants.

“...and feel like the rest of her life would be lived with a held breath”  
(Lehane, 2006: 53)

The time when she finds Dave goes home with a wound on his stomach, she is terrified but Dave tells her about a robber who slits him with a knife. At first she does not want to believe Dave's reason as she finds it rationally weird. However she also tries not to question her husband, as it is seen as a small act of her disloyalty to her husband.

However, after the news of the murder of her cousin's step-daughter, Katie Marcus, she becomes suspicious again toward her husband. From the wound, her husband's weird reason, the same night event of Katie's murder with her husband's late-night coming home, the time she overhears Sean and Sgt. Whitey's discussion suspecting Dave, and her husband's weird actions after the murder happens, she brings all to a conclusion that Dave is the murder of Katie Marcus. After this conclusion, she decides to tell her suspicions to Jimmy.

Celeste's decision to tell Jimmy about her suspicion leads to several questions. The first one is why she does not just confront Dave about the murder of Katie Marcus. Even though there is a fight when Dave realizes that his wife has been suspicious of him, Dave gives Celeste no clear answer whether or not he is the murder of Katie Marcus.

“The thing is, right?” Dave said. “The thing is, it’s like I was saying about the vampires, Celeste. It’s the same thing. The same goddamned thing.”

“What’s the same thing?” she whispered.

“It doesn’t come out. Once it’s in you, it stays.” He was looking at the coffee table again and she could feel him fading away on her.

She touched his arm. “Dave, what doesn’t come out? What’s the same thing?”

Dave looked at her hand like he was going to sink his teeth into it with a snarl, rip it off at the wrist. “I can’t trust my mind anymore, Celeste. I’m warning you. I can’t trust my mind” (Lehane, 2006: 25).

After the fight, Celeste is left with a conclusion that Dave is the murder of Katie Marcus as he always give a vivid answer and seems did not want to talk about what is bothering him. Before the quotations above, Dave were mentioning two names “Henry and George” referring to his kidnappers. Unfortunately, Celeste does not know the truth behind this all. The second one is because unconsciously Celeste saw Jimmy as someone she can depends on. As she no longer trusts Dave, she decides to tell Jimmy what she believes. This is seen as an act of betrayal because rather than telling the cops about her suspicion to Dave, she comes to Jimmy.

Just few days later after she tells Jimmy about her suspicion, she finds out about the truth. However, it is too late for her when Dave has gone missing. The last time she knew whereabouts of Dave, it is when Dave is asked to go out with Jimmy’s friends, Val and Sal. She now changes side again quickly by convincing that Jimmy is the one who is behind her husband missing. From analyzing some parts of Celeste in the novel, it is likely that Celeste is a round character and an antagonist for Dave’s character.

#### **4.1.1.5.Sgt. Whitey Powers**

Sgt. Whitey Powers is one of the supporting characters in Dennis Lehane’s *Mystic River*. He is chosen as Sean’s partner for the case of the murder of Katie

Marcus. In this story, he represents an eye of societies that sees someone in stereotypical way. As a detective, it is his job to find evidence and facts in a criminal case. It is no secret anymore that a police detective needs to be attentive in every detail that leads to the criminal case. In this novel, the author makes his parts focuses solely on solving the case. Starting from the discovery of Katie Marcus's dead body, he does his job by pointing the evidences regarding the time and the cause of Katie Marcus's death.

Many times he and his partner Sean, proves themselves as police detective, uncovering little by little the mystery of the Katie Marcus' murder case. Unlike Sean who is a bit feeling biased toward Dave while the investigation occurs, Sgt. Whitey hardly feels any sympathy to Dave. It is understandable since Sgt. Whitey has no relationship with Dave before. He simply remains professional for his job.

Being a detective, Sgt. Whitey needs to be very observant to do his job. Since he has to uncover a criminal investigation, he needs his observant skill to find out every little things which common people do not realize. However, he does makes a subjective accusation. It is based on his stereotype view built in him. The stereotype mentioned is the stereotype to criminal victims who turns into perpetrators. After his odd findings about Dave have always being dismissed by Sean, he tries another evidence with Dave's past record as a kidnapped victim. He says that there is a possibility of Dave becoming the suspect since he used to be the victim of the crime. Although it is likely seen as a professional act of Sgt. Whitey in investigating the case, it is undeniably a result from the stereotype of victims turn

into perpetrators by Sgt. Whitey. For his characters in this novel, the writer puts him into a flat type characterization.

“...He fits the profile—to a fucking T—of your average thrill killer; he’s white, mid-thirties, marginally employed, and, guessing by what you told me yesterday, he was sexually abused as a kid. You kidding me? On paper, this guy should be in jail already” (Lehane, 2006: 226).

#### **4.1.2. Plot**

##### **4.1.2.1. Exposition (Introduction)**

Either it takes chronological or non-chronological plot time, exposition part in a story begins with the introduction of the characters. In this story, the three friends are being introduced to the readers about their characteristics, directly and indirectly. The author of this novel being kind enough to describe how are the three main characters and their relationship with each other directly.

##### **4.1.2.2. Rising Action**

From how the author begins his story with introducing characters, later he put some rising actions to the story by giving trouble to the characters. In this story, the first rising action happens when Dave is abducted by strangers who claimed to be policemen being witnessed by both Sean and Jim. The three of them were so naïve that they straightly believe that the strangers were policemen. Until later, Sean and Jim found out that the strangers were not policemen and they were also close to become the victim.

Another rising action that triggered their friendship happens when the murder of Jimmy’s daughter, Katie Marcus, happens. At the first time Sean identifies the dead body of Katie Marcus, he knows that the investigation will be difficult. Sean knows Jimmy will be so devastated at the death of his own daughter,

especially since he also knew how wild and sometimes uncontrollable emotion Jimmy had.

Like Jimmy Marcus. Sean didn't know how the fuck he was going to look that guy in the eye and say, Yeah, she's dead. Your daughter's dead, Jimmy. Someone took her away for good. Jimmy, who'd already lost a wife. Shit. Hey, guess what, Jim—God said you owed another marker. He's come to collect. Hope that puts it in perspective, pal. Be seeing you. (Lehane, 2006: 119)

In addition, the incident coincidences with the thing happened by Dave Boyle. It is so coincidence that there is a suspicion of Dave being the murder of Katie Marcus by Sean, Sgt. Whitey and even his own wife. Dave's secret also seems not helpful to the investigation of the murder. Leaving Dave no choice, for him suspected as the murder of Katie Marcus.

#### **4.1.2.3. Climax**

The climax happens close enough after the rising action, since it still discusses the possibility of Dave being related to the murder of Katie Marcus. From the suspicion given by his wife at the night Dave came home badly injured which also the same night Katie was murdered. The suspicion from Sgt. Whitey, a man who has long enough served as police detective, who suspicious by Dave's alibies regarding to the night of the murder and also Dave's past record. Even Sean who has been sympathetic to Dave, wavered his feelings after some people accused Dave with a lot alibies. The final climax seems to be when Celeste finally told her suspicion to Jimmy. Even Sean is being careful with Jimmy about his suspicion to Dave, Celeste told Jimmy right after her fight with Dave. Thinking that telling her suspicion to Jimmy is a better optional than telling it to the police.

She told herself this. She told herself this because she wasn't sure the police could protect her. She had to live in this neighborhood, after all, and the only thing that could protect you from something dangerous in the neighborhood was the neighborhood itself. (Lehane, 2006: 288)

In different side of the story, Dave feels like he had finally do the thing he always wanting to do. The thirst of revenge by killing a pedophile who caught in act is finally done. However, the killing also releases another side of Dave which he hid all the time by name, The Boy. The Boy took over Dave and changed him into a person with different characteristic. The Boy is more manipulative and aggressive than Dave. The reason why Dave did not confess about killing the pedophile to his wife or the detectives is the feeling of taking control people about his wrongdoings. One of the actions who show the peak power of The Boy is when he (thought) successfully confusing the police detectives at the time of testimony given.

Come close, he'd feel like saying to people now, I've got a secret. Closer, and I'll whisper it in your ear:

I've killed someone.

Dave locked his eyes on the fat cop behind the mirror:

I've killed someone. And you can't prove it.

Who's weak now? (Lehane, 2006: 271)

#### **4.1.2.4. Falling Action**

After fighting with his wife, Dave is left alone since his wife brings their son get out from their house. The lonesome brings Dave to realization that he actually need care from the people he cared about, especially since he only had his wife and son. He revealed to be regretting not just telling his wife about what happened the night he kill a pedophile. Instead of telling the truth, he makes an alibi which is now causing trouble in his family. He blames himself for not being

courageous enough to accept his past as a sexual abused victim, and also blames God for giving a miserable fate to his life.

#### **4.1.2.5. Denouement (Catastrophe)**

The fight between him and Celeste resulting Celeste told Jimmy about her suspicion towards Dave, without him knowing. Not too long after Celeste left home with their son, Dave is soon visited by Val and Sal. They told him to just follow them and enjoy the night with them at the neighborhood bar. Later, they bring Dave to Mystic River where he met Jimmy. There, Jimmy confronts Dave whether or not he was the murder of his daughter. Dave does not admit since he was not the murderer. Jimmy does not believe him and instead tries to negotiate that Dave will be release if Dave admitted as the murder of Katie Marcus. Certainly this negotiation was a lie since Jimmy has already sure about killing Dave. However Dave, who has been in desperate to be back with his family, naively admits to Jimmy even though he was not the one who murdered Katie. In the end, Jimmy shot Dave and drowned his body in Mystic River.

It is also revealed that Jimmy had been doing a secret blue collar criminal with his close friend Val and Sal. They had been doing it a lot of criminal acts including murder. One of the victim was the father of Katie's boyfriend who everyone thought just went out of town for many years. It was so secret and perfect crime that no one suspected Jimmy nor the murder. Except the mother of Katie's boyfriend who everyone thought being nuts for being unreasonably hating Jimmy's family. Celeste Boyle, Dave's Boyle wife, ended up in the same situation where she



believed Dave's missing was all because of Jimmy but no one saw her as the crazy widow.

From the analyzing of the plot, we know that *Mystic River* has a chronological timeline for telling the journey of Dave. The writer sees the author's decision to write his novel in chronological timeline is right because it helps us sympathize with the characters' developments. Especially since the writer is focusing on the tragic life of Dave Boyle. The chronological plot helps us understand more about Dave's character and decision making. We know that some of Dave's decisions are seemingly rationally unacceptable, but since we know what he has been through since the beginning, we begin to sympathize with him. This is one of the ways of how the author tries to make the readers sympathize with the heroine of the novel. By identifying and understanding the plot, it helps to understand more the message that is put by the author about the story.

### **4.1.3. Conflict**

#### **4.1.3.1. Dave Boyle vs. Himself**

The life of Dave Boyle has never been easy since the beginning of the story. Starting with an introduction with his character is a child with broken-home situation. He has no father figure, while his mom works as a prostitute and uses their home as 'the place'. Dave and his mom live in a poor neighborhood where there are many homeless people around and trash all over the side.

At school, Dave does not have many friends. His friendship with Jimmy begins with Jimmy's father involvement. Since Jimmy already befriends with Sean, Dave, too, is becoming friend with Sean. However Jimmy and Sean too, do not like

Dave befriends with them. Dave knows this, yet he still feels grateful since they still want to play with him.

Dave Boyle's another conflict with himself begins after the abduction. He starts to make an imaginary story of what happens when he is being abducted. His imaginary story tells of a boy who has escaped from the wolves.

“And Dave would tell the voice in his head that he was not a little shit. He was the Boy Who'd Escaped the Wolves. And sometimes to keep the visions at bay, he'd replay his escape in his head, detail by detail —” (Lehane, 2006: 54).

Later, he uses his make-up story of the boy as his excuse to become a stronger and more powerful version of himself. He constantly thinks that the old Dave who becomes a victim of pedophilia has died, and now he is living with a newer version of Dave who is stronger, smarter and more powerful. He uses an excuse of how “the boy who escapes from the wolves” finally comes to Dave's reality world and takes over his world.

The Boy knelt in front of the guy and placed the wrapped-up ball of flannel shirt against his torso, just above the abdomen. Dave is floating above them now, watching.

“Please,” the guy croaked.

“Sssh,” Dave said, and the Boy pulled the trigger.

The faceless creature's body jerked hard enough to kick Dave in the armpit, and then the air left it with the whistle of a kettle.

And the Boy said, Good (Lehane, 2006: 534).

After his wife leaves him, he feels that loneliness is surrounding him. He also begins to wonder about what actually happens with him. He actually misses his wife and his kid. He realizes that his focus on living with the stronger version of himself as The Boy is actually something that has no purpose. While in reality,

he is late to realize that he is one lucky guy of all the same guys like him (sexually abused victims) who actually has a life (a wife, a kid and a family).

He should have told her. Right from the start, he should have told his wife what had really happened. He should have had faith in her. Not many wives stood by has-been high school ballplayers who'd been molested as children and couldn't hold down a decent job. But Celeste had (Lehane, 2006: 530).

#### **4.1.3.2. Dave Boyle vs. Other Characters**

##### **4.1.3.2.1. Dave Boyle vs. Celeste Boyle**

Having a complicated problem with himself also affects Dave Boyle's relationship with other characters. His sudden changing character from the talkative-Dave to the more secretive-Dave, created another problem to his social life. He gains a little trust from people around him especially his wife.

At the night the murder of Katie Marcus has attempted, Dave comes home surprisingly with a blood stain on his body. Instead of telling her what actually happens that he just killed a pedophilia who he caught-in-act, Dave makes up another story.

Dave nodded. "So, my heart starts clocking a buck-fifty right then. 'Cause there's no one around but me and him. And that's when I see the knife and he says, 'Your wallet or your life, bitch. I'm leaving with one of 'em.'"

"That's what he said?"

Dave leaned back, cocked his head. "Why?"

"Nothing." Celeste thinking it just sounded funny for some reason, too clever maybe, like in the movies (Lehane, 2006: 91).

She is suspicious of her husband's reasons that sound implausible. However, she chooses to believe at her husband first. As day goes by, she eventually cannot help but being suspicious of her husband. Moreover, she feels she never actually knows who her husband is because he is always so secretive and

mysterious. She realizes she never gets a chance to give her full trust to Dave since he is never gives her the real him.

On other hand, Dave realizes that his wife accuses him of being a murderer of Katie Marcus. He keeps telling her that he is not the murderer. However his wife does not believe him. It is definitely a frustrating moment to Dave, for not being able to tell the truth to his wife.

“It doesn’t come out. Once it’s in you, it stays.” He was looking at the coffee table again and she could feel him fading away on her.

She touched his arm. “Dave, what doesn’t come out? What’s the same thing?”

Dave looked at her hang like he was going to sink his teeth into it with a snarl, rip it off at the wrist. “I can’t trust my mind anymore, Celeste. I’m warning you. I can’t trust my mind” (Lehane, 2006: 457).

#### **4.1.3.2.2. Dave Boyle vs. Jimmy Marcus**

After being visited by Celeste about Dave, Jim and his gangs take Dave into Mystic River. Jim, who actually still conflicted, is trying to corner him to confess what he has done. Dave denies Jim’s accusation after Celeste tells him. Dave realizes that his actions make his wife never trust him. The final part of his tragic story ends with him being killed by Jim because of misunderstanding.

His split chance of luckiness is gone because it turns out Jim is lying with his negotiation. Jim never wants to let Dave’s alive after Dave confesses of something what he thinks is true.

He looked in Jimmy’s face. Jimmy, his lips moving too slowly and too quickly at the same time, said, “We bury our sins here, Dave. We wash them clean.”

Dave sat down. He watched the blood leak out of him and onto his pants. It was pouring from him, and when he put his hand to his abdomen, his fingers touched a crevice that ran from one side to the other.

He said. You lied (Lehane, 2006: 582).

#### **4.1.3.3. Dave Boyle vs. Society**

In characters and characterization analysis, it is found that Dave Boyle changes his characters after the abduction by pedophiles. Actually, there is a moment after his escape when Dave acts like nothing happens. He joyfully rides a cop car in front of the seat. However, it does not last long since people begin suspecting him as a sexual abused victim.

Easton in his article entitled *Disclosure of Child Sexual Abuse Among Adult Male Survivors* (2012: 344-345), explains about parents or caregivers who hold traditional masculine norms lack of awareness of male sexual victimization. It is found that they may be less intensively in monitoring or detecting problems following victimization for sexually abused boys, unlike girls as victim. This was also experienced by Dave Boyle, because his mother could not seemingly care of what happened to his son.

As Dave grew up, he learns that there are some gender norms in masculinity. He has to follow this culture in order to gain gender identity in societies, or else he will be seen as a failure or a shame. These norms force him into certain thoughts and actions while Dave still struggles with his own problem as a sexual abused victim.

Being expected to be someone who should maintain tight control over their emotions and restrict emotional expression leads Dave keeping his past and his struggle to get over it all alone. While as a dominant individual, since Dave thought he has failed becoming one after the abduction (the male abductors are seen as the dominant in sexual abused event), he later develops a “The Boy who Escaped from The Wolves” from his childhood memory into his character to become someone

who is stronger, wilder and more powerful than Dave Boyle. Some examples when The Boy becomes his dominant individual is when Dave kills a caught-in-act pedophilia he meets at the bar, and also when Dave tries to cover up his murder story to the police, thinking he becomes the dominant individual after controlling them.

The stereotype given by society to Dave Boyle is an image of a sexual abused victim. Even though there is no confirmation from Dave to them that he becomes a sexually abused victim. The people are only given information that two pedophiliacs were Dave's abductors. Yet, they already suspect after the return of Dave even though Dave says nothing about his abduction. He is seen as someone who gets abducted and also a freak.

In the bathroom one morning, a seventh-grader named Junior McCaffery sidled up to the urinal beside Dave and said, 'Did they make you suck it?' and all his seventh-grader friends had started laughing and making kissing noises. Dave zipped his fly with trembling fingers, his face red, and turned to face Junior McCaffery. He tried to put a mean look in his eyes, and Junior frowned and slapped him across the face. You could hear the sound of it echo in the bathroom. One seventh-grader grasped like a girl. Junior said, 'You got something to say, queer? Huh? You want me to hit you again, faggot?' (Lehane, 2006: 47).

His stereotypes as a sexual abused victim got worse when the murder of Katie Marcus happens. Especially from Sgt. White who suspects him as the murderer of Katie Marcus, and eventually Sean himself suspects him.

"...He fits the profile-to a fucking T-of your average thrill killer, he's white, mid-thirties, marginally employed, and guessing by what you told me yesterday, he was sexually abused as a kid. You kidding me? On paper, this guy should be in jail already" (Lehane, 2006: 263).

From the quotation above, there is a statistical result that concluded some sexual abused victim turns into the abuser in the future. This was used by people,

especially Sgt. Whitey as an alibi to accuse Dave Boyle as the killer of Katie Marcus.

## **4.2. Extrinsic Elements**

### **4.2.1. Tragic Life**

One thing that stresses the phrase ‘tragic life’ is disaster. A disaster that happens in the character life leads him/her to the tragic life itself. Meanwhile in this novel, the disaster that strikes Dave Boyle’s life is none other than the abduction part. It is proven to be one moment that hits the life of Dave, affecting him until his death. It affects him both his psychological and social life. The abduction part by two strangers who tricks him as police leaves a deep scar that changes his life forever. In a moment after the abduction, he is wondered why this thing happens only to him.

Dave would nod and wonder if there was something about him—some mark on his face that he couldn’t see—which made everyone want to hurt him. Like those guys in the car. Why had they picked him? How had they known he’d climb in that car, and that Jimmy and Sean wouldn’t? Looking back, that’s how it seemed to Dave (Lehane, 2006: 41).

There, a quotation from Dave’s thought about the aftermath of the abduction. It is understandable he is feeling that way since at the time before the abduction, he is playing with Jimmy and Sean. However, it is Dave who get chosen by the strangers to get inside their car. Another moment where he wonders about his life is when he is left by his wife and son after their fight. Dave is broken hearted and lonely. He feels guilty for having lied to his wife in the first place. He does not know that the results of his lying in the first place about murdering a pedophilia make his wife leave him because she cannot trust him.

He should have told her. Right from the start, he should have told his wife what had really happened. He should have had faith in her. Not many wives stood by has-been high school ballplayers who'd been molested as children and couldn't hold down a decent job. But Celeste had (Lehane, 2006: 306).

This disaster is a type that happens with natural calamity. It is something that he cannot foresee and prevent. Because Dave, Jimmy and Sean are all tricked that the strangers who pass by the street they are playing at claiming as police. The 'police' are using the sight of the three boys fighting in the street as an excuse to report them to their family. The 'police' start to ask them where they live. At that time, they are playing near Sean and Jimmy houses. Unfortunately for Dave, he is far from house that makes him getting chosen by the 'police' to get inside their car. Then it is revealed that Dave never got to his house that day. If only the three boys knew that the strangers are not police, they will be just run from them and Dave probably will not be taken away. This is an example of how disaster is something that could not have been foreseen and prevented.

Aside from the disaster, the writer finds that Dave Boyle's tragic life has begun from the beginning of the story. The author of the novel wrote explicitly about Dave Boyle's background, like where he lives, how is his parents, and how is he living as a child. He does not have many friends either. His friendship with Jimmy is the result of Jimmy's father's involvement. Then he knows Sean because he already befriends with Jimmy.

After the abduction, Dave is seen struggle to live his life back just like he is in the first place. That comes down to another factor of Dave Boyle's tragic life which is the factor of failure. Dave struggles alone as he does not have anyone to talk to. He is also not allowed again to go out by his mother, except for school.



Making it worse, when he is bullied by his friends at school, his mother does not care enough and just tells him to forget about it.

The story moves forward to couple of years later, revealing Dave who already has a family. His life seems to get back on the track, as Celeste tells us about his past that in high school Dave becomes a famous baseball player, making him a superstar in his town. He gets a stable job in a post office, and marries to Celeste. That seems fine, until he has to lose his job because of employees cutting down from his office.

Then, at the night he encounters a pedophilia-in-act inside a car with a teenage boy. It enrages him that he starts beating the pedophilia furiously. He feels that something comes out from himself which is the Boy who escapes from the Wolves. The Boy acts furiously as he does it for the price of struggles he held on to long enough. While in fight, the pedophilia successfully stabs Dave. However Dave gets himself the upper hand again and kills the pedophilia. He goes home secretly but finds Celeste is still awake. He has to lie about his wound, unbeknownst to him that it will lead himself to his tragic ending.

Since the time he killed the pedophilia and the murder of Katie Marcus happens around at the same time, Dave has been suspected, especially from his wife. Dave's secretive act and behavior seem making it worse for the police who investigates him. However, while in an interrogation, somehow Dave is liking the moment he confuses the detectives. The Boy is back again. 'The Boy' in Dave continues till home where Celeste finally pissed off from their fight and leaves him.

Right after Celeste leaves him with their son, Dave feels lonely. He realizes that he actually needs care from his family. He regrets for not letting know the truth to Celeste. He regrets for letting The Boy takes over his life. Now that he is awake, he decides to go look for Celeste and their son, and bring back them home. Unfortunately, before Dave actually does that, he is visited by Val and Sal, Jimmy's right-hand.

Val and Sal bring Dave to Jimmy, where the latter confronts Dave about the murder of Katie Marcus. It is found out that Celeste already tells Jimmy about her suspicion. Jimmy forces Dave to admit the thing he never does. Dave tells Jim that he does not kill Katie, but Jimmy does not believe him. Instead, Jim tries to negotiate Jimmy that if he confesses that he murders his daughter, he will be released. Thinking that Jimmy's promises might get him back with his family, Dave eventually says that he was the one who killed Katie. After hearing that, Jimmy takes no hesitate again to shot Dave and drowns his body in Mystic River.

Dave told as close to the truth as he could. "I saw her in McGills that night, and she reminded me of a dream I've had."

"About what?" Jimmy said, and his face crumbled, his voice cracked.

"Youth," Dave said.

Jimmy hung his head.

"I don't remember having one," Dave said. "And she was the dream of it, and I just snapped, I guess."

It killed him to say this to Jimmy, to tear him with this, but Dave just wanted to get home and get his head right and see his family, and if this was what it took, he was going to do it. He was going to make things right. And a year from now, when the real killer had been caught and convicted, Jimmy would understand his sacrifice (Lehane, 2006: 335)

The short explanation above is the focused point the writer want to stress about the factor of failure in Dave Boyle's life case. Each event including either Dave is taking the control of his life or Dave is failing to control over his life. He

will always meet another unfortunate event after, for shortly, he took control of his life again and again. As if the fate does not want Dave Boyle to enjoy breathing for a longer time. It shows us how in a tragic story requires unfortunate circumstances to achieve the guaranteed sad ending.

It also says in the chapter 3 about tragic life, it requires a final blow of unfortunate circumstances which is the death of the character itself. In *Mystic River*, Dave Boyle finally meets his death after all the things he goes through. Most of all it comes from his own actions that lead to his death. It comes from his quiet and secretive attitude to people, even to his own wife that has a domino effect leading people to distrust him. In different side, as the readers, we would find the situation sympathetic as we know about the real story of Dave. This is the example of how tragic story affects us as the readers, to bring sympathetic feeling for the characters to the readers. In the end, *Mystic River* is definitely successful in bringing and depicting Dave Boyle's tragic life story. It makes the readers realize the bitter truth of tragic story.

#### **4.2.2. Psychological Impact on Sexually Abused Victims**

After being held for a couple of days, Dave Boyle runs away for saving himself and goes back to home. The neighborhoods cheer as Dave goes back from the abduction. The neighborhoods where Dave lives, throw a party for the returning of Dave. However, Dave cannot enjoy it as much as he can because her mother does not let him out too often. She, too, starts not allowing Dave to go outside except for school. We may think that it is just her being protective to her son, but she also does not show much care to Dave. For example in a moment where he is mocked by his

friends at school for being a sexually abused victim, his mother just tell him to forget about it and let it pass. The writer thinks from this lack affection of her mother for not being able to understand what her son's actually need is one of the reasons why Dave becomes more secretive as he grew up. His mother act to close him from the outside world leads him to think that what he had from the unfortunate incident is an embarrassment. Something that should not happens, and that is why it should stay inside their house.

FOR A FEW DAYS, Dave Boyle became a minor celebrity, and not just in the neighborhood, but throughout the state. The headline the next morning in the *Record American* read LITTLE BOY LOST/LITTLE BOY FOUND. The photograph above the fold showed Dave sitting on his stoop, his mother's thin arms draped across his chest, a bunch of smiling kids from the Flats mugging for the camera on either side of Dave and his mother, everyone looking just happy as can be, except for Dave's mother, who looked like she'd just missed her bus on a cold day (Lehane, 2006: 41)

Probably her mother just does not know what to do to help a sexually abused victim which in this case is her son. She does not know that 'caging' a sexually abused victim affects the victim into thinking more about the unfortunate event. It keeps him to think that the unfortunate event should not be happens and instead to get over it, it will just haunts him all the time. Dave shows us how he wants to be seen as a strong character even after the abduction to hide his deep scar, just like what he always known. However the society turns out to be judge him for being a weak character, even his own mother. It unconsciously makes Dave to feel alone and eventually isolated himself. In an article by Ahrens entitled *Being Silenced: The Impact of Negative Social Reactions on the Disclosure of Rape* (2006) she states that,

“Negative reactions can thereby serve a silencing function. Women who initially break the silence and speak out about the assault may quickly reconsider this decision and opt to stop speaking. Negative reactions such as being blamed, being denied help, or being told to stop talking about the assault may effectively quash rape survivors’ voices, rendering them silent and powerless” (Ahrens, 2006: 264).

After the negative reactions given by the society, Dave decides not to tell anyone about what happened again. It is also because he, himself, still does not believe “this terrible event” happens to him. In his mind, he often has to fight the “bad memories” and nightmares from the moment he is abducted. He often pictures himself at the time of the abduction when he is trying to run away from the abduction place. However as it is too painful to bear for him, he tries to create a new thinking based from his memories. The new thinking puts him as a hero in the story rather than a loser/victim.

And Dave would tell the voice in his head that he was not a little shit. He was the Boy Who’d Escaped the Wolves. And sometimes to keep the visions at bay, he’d replay his escape in his head, detail by detail—the crack he’d noticed by the hinge in the bulkhead door, the sound of their car pulling away as they went out for a round of drinks, the screw with the missing head he’d used to pry the crack open wider and wider until the rusty hinge snapped and a chunk of wood in the shape of a knife blade cracked away with it. He’d come out of the bulkhead, this Boy Who Was Smart...(Lehane, 2006: 44).

This whole fantasy he creates is the reason of psychological problem he suffers after the abduction. It is normal for sexual abused victims to have a tendency of creating a fantasy based on the terrible event that happens to them. It is caused by certain mix feelings of anger, fear, sorrow and shame. He feels angry because he thinks that his friends betray him for letting him gets inside the abductors car. His fear comes from the thought that the abductors will get him back. Despite being

saddened for what happens to him, he is also feeling shameful. Shameful of people talking about him and spreading rumor he never confirms about it.

Not all of them muttered “Homo” when he passed in the hall or used their tongues to push against the insides of their cheeks. In fact, a good number of Dave’s fellow students just ignored him. But in a way, that was worse. He felt marooned by the silence (Lehane, 2006: 43)

Because of the rumor, he is being bullied by some friends. From this unfortunate incident of Dave being bullied by some friends, he develops a defensive character that makes him more secretive to other people.

His psychological problem does not stop there. It is because he actually keeps his other character “The Boy” inside him, growing up side by side with the real Dave. Eventually he loses control over his real Dave to “The Boy” after he caught a pedophilia in action and decides to kill him. The murder of Katie Marcus which happens at the same time he killed the pedophilia, gives him another trouble as he does not want to admit what he does, especially to his wife. The decision of not telling his wife what happens and let the suspicion get him is because he does not want his wife to know about his past.

“The thing is, right?” Dave said. “The thing is, it’s like I was saying about the vampires, Celeste. It’s the same thing. The same goddamned thing.”  
“What’s the same thing?” she whispered.  
“It doesn’t come out. Once it’s in you, it stays.” He was looking at the coffee table again and she could feel him fading away on her. She touched his arm.  
“Dave, what doesn’t come out? What’s the same thing?”  
Dave looked at her hand like he was going to sink his teeth into it with a snarl, rip it off at the wrist. “I can’t trust my mind anymore, Celeste. I’m warning you. I can’t trust my mind” (Lehane, 2006: 266)

Dave thinks that since “The Boy” has took over his life, he does not want to go back to the weak Dave. Letting his past known is like letting his weakness shown. The struggle he has been suffering since the abductions makes him “the

loser”, and now that he has killed a pedophilia, he feels now that he is in the upper hand. He gets his revenge. Unlike what he expects, his secretive and changing character turns out making his wife more distant from him. This is one of the examples of how a sexual abused victim unconsciously damaging his surrounding, including himself.

Near the end of the story, Dave finally realizes the effect of his actions and behaviors. It is way too late for him to realize after his wife has left him. In addition, Celeste has tell Jimmy about her suspicion to Dave. Furious to hear it, Jimmy plans to kill Dave. However he needs to hear the confession from Dave directly. Dave, who actually does not kill Jimmy’s daughter, certainly denies it. At that moment, Jimmy gives a negotiation that if Dave admits the murder, he will be released. In the end, Dave naively admits the murder without knowing the actual plan of Jimmy. He is then killed by Jimmy. At the quotation below, we figure out about Dave’s decision to admit the murder he did not do it.

I will come home to you, Celeste. We will make that good life. We will. And then, I promise, no more lies. No more secrets. But I think I need to tell this one last lie, the worst lie of my lying life, because I can’t tell the worst truth of my life. I’d rather he think I killed his daughter than know why I killed that pedophile. This is a good lie, Celeste. It will buy us our lives back (Lehane, 2006: 335).

The quotation is Dave’s own narration on his mind, when Jimmy gives him a negotiation to make Dave admitting the murder of his daughter. For his last time, all he can think is his wife. Meaning that he finally realizes the effect of what he has done for all the past years. He does not ask for a help for his psychological struggles and instead only repressing his terrible memories. It is not entirely his fault for not being open up about his psychological struggles. However if we

observe from this story, it seems that Dave is too conscious of what others think about him. Since the rumor of him being sexually abused by men spreads out, he feels like he fails at keeping his masculinity role. In order to regain that back, he thinks that killing a pedophilia will at least brings him back his masculinity role.

The moment Jimmy gives him an option to admit about the murder of his daughter is the moment where Dave realizes that he needs someone who cares for him. He cannot deny that the reason why Celeste leaves him is because he cannot open up to Celeste about his past and his struggles, even though Celeste has always been an ideal wife who loves him for whoever he is. For this reason, Dave is willingly to lie. Tragic for him, Jimmy already stabs a knife to his stomach.

#### **4.2.3. Stereotype**

There is no clear evidence when Dave's rumor begins to spread. Also no one knows who starts it first. It just spread suddenly few days after Dave goes back home from being kidnapped. The rumor is about Dave being a victim of sexually abused by male perpetrators. Meanwhile, Dave actually never confirms or denies the rumor. When the rumor reaches his school, his friends start to bully him. The bullied Dave receives is a mocking of a taboo action of sexual activity.

In school, though, he was just the Boy Who Got Stolen, and everyone let their imaginations run as to what had happened during those four lost days. In the bathroom one morning, a seventh-grader named Junior McCaffery sidled up to the urinal beside Dave and said, "Did they make you suck it?" and all his seventh-grader friends had started laughing and making kissing noises (Lehane, 2006: 41).

Dave tells this bullying he gets to his mom, yet his mom's response is surprisingly unsupportive. She says to Dave to just let them be and wait until they eventually stop by themselves. The writer figures it out that ever since this moment,



Dave has repetitively lose his confidence. It is probably the moment Dave thinks that what happened to him is a shameful incident. It seems like there is an unwritten social rule and norm about men cannot be a victim of abuse. This invisible social rule and norm about men creates a stereotype that a male victim of abuse is somewhat weak, pathetic, and shameful.

Another stereotype shown in this novel is the stereotype of sexual abused victim turned into perpetrators. The murder of Katie Marcus brings a big question to the people of suburban Boston, the city in the novel. Sean Devine and Sgt. Whitey are chosen to investigate the case. Their investigation leads them to Dave who is one of the people who see Katie Marcus before being murdered. During the investigation, Dave's odd behavior and reason catches Sgt. Whitey' attention.

“You put it that way,” Whitey said. “Okay. It’s dumb. Still, there’s something about that guy. If he didn’t have a hole in his alibi, I’d say okay. If he didn’t see the victim an hour before she died, I’d say okay. But he does have a hole, and he did see her, and there’s something off about the guy. He says he went right home? I want his wife to confirm that. I want his first-floor neighbor to have heard him walking up the stairs at one-oh-five. You know? Then I’ll forget about him. Did you notice his hand?”

Sean didn’t say anything.

“His right hand was almost twice the size of his left. That guy got into something recently. I want to know what. Once I know it was just a beef down the bar, something like that, I’m good. I’ll let it go” (Lehane, 2006: 212)

In addition, he finds out that Dave uses to be a victim of sexual abusers. Meanwhile for Sean, he seems like he does not want to agree with Sgt. Whitey over his sympathetic feeling to Dave. Until Sean is admitting to himself that Dave has certain probabilities to be the murder of Katie Marcus.

This novel shows how detectives are doing their job. They use their investigation skill and attention to details to uncover a crime. Sgt. Whitey has been

suspicious of Dave ever since they first met, hearing Dave's alibi regarding to Katie. Then he gets even sure after he found out Dave's past record as a sexual abused victim. Since a detective is required to be more attentive than common people, his suspicion using close observation to Dave and Dave's past record are logically acceptable. However, what we should not miss is that his decision to use Dave's past record is the result of certain stereotype around ex abused victims.

As it shows in chapter 3 for stereotype, from a couple of analysis focusing on victims of abuse, there is a possibility for ex abused victim to do a crime in the future. It circulates since people begin to be aware of the past abused victims' condition. People will eventually feeling sympathized over hearing someone with a past abused history. Even though the past abused victims are seemingly living fine with their life, people would always see them as pitiful human being. The still-in-trouble past abused victims, however, is feeling the need of requiring something they lost from the past abused history. In other words, they need revenge. As it mentioned by Smith (2005: 369), for as long he was working as criminal defense lawyer, he rarely handle a case where the criminal does not have victim-background related story. Now it is clear where the stereotype of victims turned into perpetrators comes from. Sgt. Whitey, who has been working as police detective for a long time, finds Dave's past record as a strong evidence to put him as a suspect of the murder of Katie Marcus. Though in the end, his suspicion is a little bit incorrect because the one Dave murder is not Katie Marcus.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **CONCLUSSION**

From the intrinsic element, the characters analyzed are Dave Boyle, Jimmy Marcus, Sean Devine, Celeste Boyle, and Sgt. Whitey Powers. All of them including the main character have played significant roles in the journey of the tragic life of Dave Boyle. They are all either ex-close friends of Dave Boyle, Dave Boyle's wife, and a stranger. For analyzing the plot, the writer focuses on how to bring an understanding of Dave Boyle's life that turns into the tragic life of his. The writer praises the author's decision to put a chronological timeline for this novel in order to help the readers easily sympathize with the heroine. As for conflict, it focuses on which part of the story that is estimated to be the main conflicts from his life. Dave's conflict with himself is underlined as the biggest conflict of his life. The others conflicts involve external factors such as other characters and the society that lives with him.

The extrinsic elements of this study include the tragic life of Dave Boyle, the psychological impact and the stereotype of a sexually abused victim. In a tragic life part of Dave Boyle, the writer finds things from his life that fitted to be counted as the reason why his life's journey is categorized as a tragic life. One of the reasons includes the disasters that happen in his life. The disaster from Dave Boyle's life is coming from the natural calamity which is something he cannot foresee and prevent it. In addition, the main factor of Dave Boyle's tragic life is the factor of failure, a series of failure he faces from the beginning of the story.

As for the psychological impact, the writer finds that Dave Boyle has the same common psychological problem to others sexually abused victims. The psychological impacts on Dave include an isolation, damaging his social surrounding and eventually his destruction. Dave, who is becoming isolated, is the result of the negative reaction given by people around him, especially the one who close to him. It makes him becoming more secretive and does not trust people again or see the world the same as before again.

For the stereotype of the sexually abused victim on him, Dave receives mostly negative reactions from the people around him. He tries his best to get back on his feet again after the abduction, however people start to labeling him for being a sexual abuse boy. The stereotype he is given is he is seen as a traumatized man with a hurtful and probably a shameful past. Also, the stereotype gave by Sgt. Whitey, who works as a police detective, that Dave is one of the ex-victims who turns into a perpetrator. Even though Sgt. Whitey's accusation comes from his experience, however through the investigation, he uses Dave's past as a sexually abused victim to be an alibi for the murder's case of Katie Marcus.

In the end, the tragic life of Dave Boyle in Dennis Lehane's *Mystic River* can be simplify by few parts of tragic story. The first one is the tragic hero of the tragic story is Dave Boyle, one of the main characters in the novel. The second one is the tragic force causing the tragic story in Dave Boyle's life are the disaster he cannot prevented (the abduction), himself and the people around him. The tragic flow of Dave Boyle's life is projected in through many unfortunate events or disasters that he faced. One of the example is when he was abducted despite being

with his friends. Another example is when he thinks Jim will release him if he admits being the murderer of Katie Marcus, but it turns out Jimmy was lying, and he is killed by Jim. The final blow of Dave Boyle's tragic life is none other than his own death after Celeste gives him the "death sentence" on the ending part of the novel.

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