



Anxiety in R.L. Stine's *Fear Street Sagas: Heart of the Hunter*

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to elaborate anxiety in R.L. Stine's *Fear Street Sagas: Heart of the Hunter*. Jamie Fier, has the most frequent occurrence of anxiety among the other characters. Using a qualitative descriptive method and descriptive and dramatic method as well as close reading theory, the study finds that Jamie Fier undergoes an anxiety in the form of panic. In spite of giving advantages to other people within the novel, Jamie Fier's anxiety is worthy of appreciation as he becomes the model of creating a balance life because through knowing the existence of anxiety in he form of panic, people will be more careful in running life in the world full of chaos.

Key words: anxiety, panic, close reading

INTRODUCTION

There are a lot of experts defining anxiety; anxiety is a psychological term that is often attached to a set of three feelings: worry, nervousness, as well as fear (Collins & Donnelly, 2014). Anxiety is an uncertain emotion that leads to a mysterious fright of a danger (Glas, 2020) as well as a sensible or insensible overpowering emotion as there is overwhelming dangerous feelings of sorrow and discomfort (Ma & Miller, 2021).

Anxiety, then, happens in a long lasted emotional condition with the characteristics as follows: provoked by a possibly hazardous context, containing impulsive menace. Principally, the incapability to the identification of the periods of safety arouses this chronic stress. In the case of potential danger, anxiety is categorized by an enlarged total carnal feeling to frightening stimuli in a certain context and feelings of insecurity and helplessness (Genheimer, 2015). Anxiety

happens by what a person thinks about and a person reacts to his/her surroundings (Pittman & Karle, 2015).

Anxiety is the description of feeling worry as well as fear. Anxiety or even anxiety disorders are dangerous mental condition since they bother people's capability with central emotions in anxiety's core referring to fear as well worry (Gask & Graham, 2014). Though regarded as being normal phenomena, anxiety often happens to children (Davis, White, and Ollendick, 2014). Even though anxiety is unpleasing to human being, yet, it can be of any use as a reminder of the additional danger to those with low self-esteem (Jonas, et al, 2017).

Anxiety disorder can lead the person to frustration (Wiederhold & Bouchard, 2014). Social anxiety disorder is categorized by determined fear as well as escaping from social conditions because of fears of assessment by others. It can be extremely upsetting as well as interfering with school, work, and the life in society because the person gets rids of the social or performance situations (Stein & Vythilingum, 2015).

Social anxiety disorder refers to scrutiny fear by other persons that leads to the escape from social circumstances that could be detached for example from eating in public, public speaking, or encountering with the difference in sex as well as involving mostly the whole conditions in society. Whilst, social anxiety disorder has the common features such as embarrassed, perspiring, or quivering, and fears of negative assessment (Emmelkamp & Ehring, 2014, see also Weeks, 2014). It is similar to what has been stated by Hofmann & DiBartolo (2014) that social anxiety disorder refers to shame, public blushing fears, having meals outside the house, social engagement, having dances or parties, or trembling becoming the public attention. Additionally, panic, trauma, and depression are mental conditions of somebody with anxiety disorder (Weeks, 2014).

From the definition above about anxiety, the researchers come to the understanding that anxiety makes a person's mentality unbalanced characterized by the feeling of fear, worry, depress, trauma, and panic leading the researchers to raise as the issue in this article in spite of the fact that the person experiencing

anxiety refers to a child. Because the person undergoing anxiety is available within a literary work, the researchers, then, refer to psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud for the analysis.

Further, anxiety occurs as the effect of the everlasting fight of the ego against superego (Feist, et al, 2017). Sigmund Freud states that human being has personality structures such as id, ego, and superego in relation to the anxiety (Schultz, et al, 2017). Anxiety is created by the id containing individual's wishes directed to the ego to accomplish the id's desires. Nevertheless, the ego must confront the superego as the ego has to select if or not the ego does the id's wishes. Unless the id aligns with the superego, the id will not be happy. Therefore, anxiety emerges.

A novel that has the issue of anxiety is R.L. Stine's *Heart of the Hunter* a story about Jamie, the central character of this novel, who faced the challenging situation during the crisis of limited supply, and they were forced to relocate their place where they used to gather their family because of it. In the novel, the writer portrays the main character as a person who easily gets anxious. The book is written so that the central character always had huge problems to face, and this is one of the things that caused the anxiety.

Then, the anxiety undergone by Jamie Fier refers to neurotic anxiety in which id and ego plays important roles refers to the understanding of unaware threat. The id sends impulses, whilst, the ego is the decision maker. Two things causing neurotic anxiety are the powerful person as well as hostility feeling of childhood; the powerful person can be teachers as well as employers. Whereas hostility feeling of childhood causes fear of being punished (Schultz, 2017). How anxiety in the form of panic is described is the focus of this study.

Recently, there has been researchers do conduct on anxiety; Asyfa, U.N. (2019), in their article *The Main Characters Anxiety Disorder in the Novel Blue Skies* by Catherine Anderson, analyze anxiety in Carly's life. Using psychoanalysis of Sigmund Freud, the central character, Carly, undergoes psychological problems influencing his life. Cahyaningrum, I.O. (2019), in her

article *An Analysis of Intrinsic Elements and the Portrayal of Anxiety in Linkin Park's Song Lyrics*, analyzes the intrinsic elements types as well as the portrayal of anxiety. Through the research of description quality, the study shows that the anxiety refers to fearful, worried, stressed, disappointed, miserable, confused, as well as frustrated. Kurniasari, A.K. (2024), in their article *Anxiety of Warriner in Charles Williams' Dead Calm* analyze the anxiety undergone by the main character Hugh Warriner. Using descriptive qualitative method as well as kinds of anxiety such as neurotic, moralistic, and real anxiety, the study shows that the central character experiences those aforesaid anxiety kinds: weak, worried, as well as fearful punishment, regretful to other character as well as confronting an actual threat. From the previous studies above, it is clear that panic is the only anxiety the researchers find in this study, therefore, it signifies the novelty of the researchers' study.

METHOD

Research Approach

The instrument of the study belongs to the researchers themselves as the researchers' study is a literary one. Additionally, a qualitative descriptive method is employed here. Hossein Nassaji (2015) in *Qualitative and descriptive research: Data type versus data analysis. Language Teaching Research* explains that a qualitative descriptive method determines the impediment and observes in what way the study happens as well as factors influencing it in spite of the fact that deep observation is worthy of a conduct. Also, this method is a perfect way to conduct the social aspect of study (Rutberg & Bouikidis, 2018). Then the purpose of the method is to describe anxiety in R.L. Stine's *Fear Street Sagas: Heart of the Hunter*

The researchers also refer to descriptive and dramatic methods in conducting the analysis of the novel through the description, discussion as well as the report of the character's speech and actions (Little, 1966). Therefore, by describing, discussing as well as reporting the character's speech and actions, the

researchers perform and examine the anxiety of Jamie's family. Then, close reading is worth using to have the data clearly analyzed. Close reading is the analysis technique in literature zeroing in on the exact details of a passage or text to identify profounder meaning that comes from the reader's comprehension of the passage or text. wholly (Pickering, 2019). Hence, the researchers consider it is sufficient to use close reading as the researchers only zero in on anxiety in the novel.

Kind of Research

Because the researchers conduct a study on a literary research, the research then refers to description, speech, and action of the main character's anxiety in R.L. Stine's *Fear Street Sagas: Heart of the Hunter*

Data Collection Technique

The ways of the data collection are as follows: interview, observation, document, and survey the data (Huberman & Miles, 1984). Observation, document as well as survey of the data are worth using insomuch as the study belongs to the literary one. The former means to conduct the reading of the novel wholly, get the issue, then get the related theory. The latter means to do the classification of the data dealing with anxiety: panic. The last means to do the analysis of the classified data

Data Analysis

The data analysis refers to the research question and the explanation of the research question (Huberman & Miles 1984) that is how anxiety is described in R.L. Stine's *Fear Street Sagas: Heart of the Hunter*. Then, through close reading theory, the researchers describe, discusses as well as reports the character's conversation and actions related to the panic, anxiety aforesaid.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Anxiety

Panic

A little family need to begin their journey in order to avoid the curse that they believe planted inside their village. Meanwhile, the main character Jamie Fier resisting about the cursed that planted inside his village and tried to convince his family to stay at the village like the quote below.

"I won't go, John. I won't go!" Jamies mother had cried. "It's too wild. Too dangerous.". but she had packed her pots, kettles, and quilts into the wagon. She climbed into the back and started the long journey with them. And she's sorry she did, Jamie thought. One of their wheels struck a large rut in the road. The wagon jerked. Jamie hears his mother give a shrill cry. "What was that?" she called out. "John, what's happening?". (Stine, 1997, p. 3).

In this situation Jamie's mother cried about her family began a journey, her panic described with she cried and begged to Jamie's father that she wanted to back home to their old village. On the other hand Jamie's father explain about the condition of their old village. He explained that there was nothing left for them.

"it's the fier curse", his father mumbled, "I'm a good farmer, but the curse is like the plague, it stopped our tobacco crops from growing. We had nothing to sell so no money to buy food.". his father dug his bony fingers into Jamie's knee. "You'll see son, things will be differents now. We left the curse behing us.". Jamie had grown up hearing about the curse. How it doomed all Fiers. How none could escape it. "I won't believed in that curse.", Jamie decided (Stine, 1997, p. 5).

The concerning had circled Jamie's father. He felt the danger about the less supply and the fate of his family ahead, Jamie's father found no solution for the situation. Meanwhile Jamie himself claimed that he won't believe on that curse and he trying to think rationally and being logically. The superego on Jamie's father brought himself and his family to move on from the village while Jamie with his ego tried for being logically that there is no such thing like curse.

Jamie's mother felt the danger that might covered her little family. In order to keep his family safe she ordered Jamie to inform her husband about the situation.

"I heard a wild animal", his mother choked out. Jamie saw her eyes fill with tears. She dug her trembling fingers into Jamie's arm. "Jamie, tell

your father to take us home". He cleared his throat, trying to make his voice sound firm "I want to settle in Kentucky". (Stine, 1997, p. 10).

The concern feeling covered Jamie's mother, she told her son to leave quickly in order to avoid the danger and keep her family remain safe. Jamie's mother care so much for her family just like other mothers who care for her family. On their other side Jamie with his stubbornness he decided to stay in his village Kentucky and resisting his mother's advice. Jamie's mother hopes that her family would not see the wild animal because they struggling to move in another land in order to left the curse behind them and live like normal people.

"Why have we stopped?" she asked. "it's evening. We've stopped for today." He held out his hand. "Come on mother, you need to supper." "Supper", she repeated. She crawled to him. "yes, yes I must fix supper." Jamie help her out of the wagon. She squeezed his hand, worry filling her eyes. "I don't like this new land," she whisper harshly. "too many shadows". (Stine, 1997, p. 12).

Squeezing Jamie's hand was her act for being worry about the wild animals because they were inside the forest and they have to stopped in the middle of the forest in order to fix the supper and taking a rest for the day. Panic and fear had covered Jamie's mother while her son Jamie tried to calm his mother down by telling her that once they got the valley the shadows will disappear, then they will feel fear no more so they can breathe calm and stay joy. Her husband has no choice but to stopped in the middle of the forest. In this quotation the anxiety inside Jamie's mother described by Jamie's mother hold Jamie's hand and through her eyes.

"Oooooowwwwooooooo! The long, high-pitched howl made the hairs on the back Jamie's neckprickle. Was that a wolf? He wondered. He tensed, waiting for the sound to come again. Oooooowwwwooooooo! Is it as close as it sounds? He wondered. Oooooowwwwooooooo! Close. To close. It's watching us, he taught. His gaze darted over the trees, and his fingers tightened around the leather reins". (Stine, 1997, p. 8).

Panic over his body after he heard the long howl from the wild animal. Jamie assumed the long howl came from the wolves and for the wolves always in

company while they hunting for prey. Jamie worried about the safety of his family when they were in the middle of the forest. The long howl gave Jamie the fear and he hoped that the howl coming from the tribe inside the forest and also hoped his family would not see the wild animals again before they can reach their destination.

“Jamie jerked in his seat and fought and fought to keep his balance. Something had bumped into the wagon. What was that?, he asked himself. He leaned over and checked the side of the wagon nearest him. Noting there. Did a tree branch hit the wagon as we passed? Or is it the Indians? Are they sneaking in for an attack?. We’re moving to slow, Jamie thought, anyone-anything could cling into the back of the wagon and we’d never know. Never know until it was to late” (Stine, 1997, p. 8).

For a second Jamie wondered about his wagon of his family. When something bumped Jamie’s wagon he wondered what of who caused it, that thing can be from the tree branches, the stones, or even the worse from the tribe inside the forest called the Indian. Jamie’s fear the Indian because he worry if the Indians started to hunting in the forest and that can make a danger for his family. Confused still covered Jamie’s mind but he has no choice or reason to stopped for a little long time so he decided to continued his journey.

The sound came from the wagon, he realized. His heart thundered. “Father did you hear—” Jamie began. “Jamie look out!” Amanda Shrieked, pointing her finger. “look behind you” Jamie jerked around and stared into the black open barrel of flintlock rifle. A rifle aimed straight at his heart” (Stine, 1997, p. 9).

Jamie shocked because the sound that coming from the inside of the wagon and he stared with his unbelieveness that his mother aimed the rifle straight at his chest. Jamie had confused and panic why his mother aimed the deadly rifle straight to her own son.

From the quotation above sometimes panic can caused fatal act for humans because of the confusing through human’s mind. This effect can affect people to make them really hard for taking decision in life.

“Nooooooooo!” Jamie heard his mother’s horrified cry. His own heart pounded so hard his ribs hurt. “ you can’t leave us to die!” Jamie yelled. No one paid any attention. “we should leave them behind!” a woman declared. “won’t shared their food,” a grey haired man muttered” (Stine, 1997, p. 17).

Jamie worried after heard his mother scream, with his tears and in a panic situation he came to his mother and discovered that an old man decided to leave Jamie’s family without any food supply in the middle of the forest. Jamie shocked that he never knew someone will rob his food supply in the middle of the forest, Jamie couldn’t do anything but crying with his mother. They begged to them to leave them with a food supply so Jamie’s family can continue the journey and stay alive during the journey to another land.

In this quotation Jamie gave the struggling in order to keep the food supply with him and keeping his family remain safe. Jamie confused but he was just a child nothing can he do but crying.

Jamie heard a twig snap. He glanced around. The men circled them, gathering close. Their eyes fixed his father.

“Give us half of your food”, Lucien demanded, his eyes blazing with fury. “and we’ll let you travel with us.”. Say yes, Jamie thought, I don’t want travel alone. Not in the wilderness. We won’t satnd a chance. If the wild animals don’t get us, the Indians surely will. “Please father let us share” he urged. “No!” his father cried. He reised the rifle to eyes level’ (Stine, 1997, p. 18).

Threatened by other people, Jamie’s father took an act in order to defend their food supply. Lucian was the one who responsible for the robbery, he threat Jamie’s family to shared their food supply so they can continue the journey through the forest together. Jamie beg to his father to share the food because he knew the forest still have many things that can danger Jamie’s family, Jamie afraid if Lucian left them alone inside the forest that full of danger. Therefore, with his tears dropping from his eyes he beg his father to share the food supply but Jamie’s father resist it.

Jamie's mother clutched her chest and crumpled to the ground. Father's rifle went off. He accidentally shot mother! Jamie scrambled to his feet and rush to her side. Then dropped to his knees beside her. The crimson blood soaked the front of her dress. The glistening pool grew wider and wider. "What have they done? What have they done to you?" Jamie cried. He pressed his hand over the gaping black hole in her dress. Her blood gushed through his fingers. (Stine, 1997, p. 21).

Jamie ran to his mother with full of panic, his father accidentally shot his mother with his rifle. Jamie pressed her wound with hope that she would not leave him, fear had covered Jamie's mind. He cried his mother and hoped that he can turn back the time in order to keep his mother fine and live together with full of joy. In this situation panic covered his mind and made him to act beyond the logically.

Jamie's blood pounded in his temples. He staggered backward.

"Mother?" he called again. He didn't dare take his star toward the white figure. He watched as it stumbled, then righted itself. Stumbled? A ghost would not stumble, would it? He peered through the shadows. Amanda! Amanda followed me. The moon reflected her long white nightgown" (Stine, 1997, p. 27).

Jamie shocked with the appearing of the white dress beneath the moonlight. With fear and wondered he tried to think clearly but what always come to his mind just a ghost. Jamie still haunted with his mother's death, he still feel the uncomfot and feel the emtiness left by his mother forever. The fear when he saw the long white dress made him to think unclearly until made to think that the long white dress was a ghost.

The wheels turned fast, faster. He could see the horses growing agitated. Nerveous. "Slow down!", his father yelled. The wagon is going to roll faster than the horses can run, Jamie thought. We're going to ram into the Goodes, he realized. We'll be killed!. Jamie wrapped his hand around the brake handle and pulled back, trying to slow the wagon before it rolled over the horses. (Stine, 1997, p. 32).

After long enough travel through the forest and mountains, Jamie's family now had to deal with how they will handle to go down from the mountain. Jamie's wagon rolled faster to the ground until the horses could not follow the wagon. Jamie and his father need to think the solution in order to slow the wagon down, if they fail the wagon will straight to the Lucian Goode's property, the person who rob Jamie's family when they still travel inside the forest. Fear, panic had covered Jamie and his father they afraid if their wagon hit the Goode's it will only cause another problem for them. Fortunately Jamie had think clearly to stop the wagon and avoid the situation they did not want.

Crack!. Was that an axle?. He wondered frantically. Or the wheel?. The horses whinnied. The wagon started to teeter. "Jump Jamie!" his father yelled "Jump Dora Mae!". Jamie leapt for the side of the mountain. He hit the hard ground with a thud. His father landed a few feet away. (Stine, 1997, p. 32).

The wagon was rolled to fast until nothing can stop it unless the trees or the giant rocks on the ground. Jamie's father worry about the safety of his family, with the wagon rolled faster than the horses Jamie's father yelled to Jamie to jump. He told him to in order to save him from the crash. Jamie's father really think clearly and made a wise decision in order to avoid his family being crash from the rolling wagon.

"The axle" Jamie's father muttered. "The curse is still with us. Dora Mae is right. We can't escape it. We are doomed!". Jamie staggered to his feet. He held his hand out to his father and pulled him up. "I'd better checked on your mother. She didn't jump whe I told her to", his father mumbled as he trudged to treallyhe wagon. Jamie squeezed his eyes shut. Oh, father what am I going to do with you? How can I make you realized mother is dead?" (Stine, 1997, p. 33).

In this situation Jamie's father felt the worry inside him, he worried that his wife did no take a leapt during the wagon got crashed. Confuse had covered Jamie's mind, Jamie truly tried to make his father to realized that his wife truly gone forever but Jamie's father still consider his wife still alive and with them during their wagon got crashed. Jamie feel the fear that his father could not accept that

his wife already left them forever, Jamie try to think clearly but all he got just a confused among his mind. Jamie felt the lost to but he must to let his mother gone for good. So that he can think more clearly, more logically in order to facing the next situation ahead.

Jamie dashed after him. He stumbled on a rock and fell. He shoved himself on his feet and looked around frantically. He could no longer see his father's outline in the darkness. He could only hear the distant sound of his father's foot steps crashing through the leaves and brush.

"Father stop!" he called. He cupped his hand around his mouth and called louder. "Come back! Please, I can't see you anymore, father. You must comeback". He's not coming. Jamie realized. He stood silently, listening to his father's footsteps. He heard nothing. (Stine, 1997, p. 36).

In this quotation Jamie rushed following his father. Jamie's father truly still could not accept about the dead of his wife. Heard about the howl of the wolves Jamie's father running through the dark of the forest again. Jamie worried about his father's safety he decided to rush following his father.

Day started to change into night the wolves started to howl, he worried something would happen to his father. Jamie yelled to his father convincing him to come back. Jamie's mind started to mess up, his mind devided between convincing his father to stop and worrying his safety with his fear enter the forest again during the night. Although, he scared he kept rushing into his father but the only thing he got was nothing and he lost his father.

"What's wrong? he wondered. What's different? He slowly looked around the camp. The branch he'd been whittling stood where he had lef it. The fire continued to burn. The wagon still layed on it's side. The horses! He stood up, scanning the area. The horses!. The horses were gone. He set the lantern on the ground. With shaking hands, he pulled the ramrod from the rifle and jammed it downthe barrel. He knew to much powder will make the rifle explode in his face when he pulled the trigger, but he did not have time to measure it out. "please don't be too much", he whispered to himself, "please don't be too much gun powder" (Stine, 1997, p. 40).

In this quotation Jamie felt the fear of the wild things inside the forest. He heard some noises and a long howl from the forest, he's alone by now left by his father and his mother forever. Fear and panic covered through the Jamie's mind and his body. He worried if what he heard is a wolves, or the Indian tribe. Remember that his family had a rifle Jamie started to picked the rifle and began to fill it with the gun powder. Jamie never held a rifle before but he knew much about the rifle. His worried covered his mind when he began to fill the rifle with the gun powder, because if he wrong on the amount when he filled the gun powder it will destroy Jamie's face when he began to pull the trigger.

Jamie staggered back. He tripped over a rock and fell. His rifle fired. His solitary bullet flew into the night sky. He scrambled to his feet. "I don't have time to reload, he thought frantically. I don't know if I could reload in the dark. He grabbed the barel of his rifle and held it like a club. Waiting. Waiting the Indian to attack. His mouth grew dry. He had never seen an Indian before" (Stine, 1997, p. 43).

Jamie felt the panic inside him. The panic inside him came from the rifle shot and revealing Jamie's hideout. Therefore, the Indians will discover his hiding and attack him. Jamie's fear also affect that Jamie did not know if he could reload the rifle in the middle of the dark. His nervous made his mouth dry because of his anxiety for the Indians. With his panic he hoped that the Indians would attack him first so that he could pull the trigger without any mistake. Jamie's fear of the Indians made him hard to think and act normal, his fear also made him in an uncomfort situation. This situation Jamie's heart beat more faster than the usual caused by the anxiety for make him stay safe when the Indians come and attack him.

"The warrior howled again. Jamie heard a thud behind him. He spund around. Another Indian!. He heard a sound to his left. Then his right. More Indians. They surrounded him. He froze to the spot. His knees feels like slippery mud that lined the river. His heart raced, fast and hard. He could almost hear it in the thick silent that filled the forest. He began to sweat. The rifle began slick to his palms, sliding through his hands" (Stine, 1997, p. 44).

Heard that the Indians coming closer to Jamie, he began to lose his focus to stay awake and stay calm. Jamie's heart beat raced faster than the usual, this situation made him lost his focus and made him hard to keep the rifle balance on his hands. The Indians are getting closer and more of them. Jamie afraid what is going to happen if the Indian see him, his thought full with awareness. Jamie never met with the Indians before and he did not know their behavior. He's afraid that the Indian would do a terrible thing to him, sweat started to cover all his palms, his panic had covered him and his mind.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis above, the researchers find a lot about the panic attacks within the characters in the novel. Jamie Fier, the main character in the novel, is the only character who experiences so much anxiety in this novel. The researchers find several things when the characters inside the novel had anxiety such as panic attacks, confusion, and loss of control of their mind. The author describes the main character as having anxiety with yelling through their mouth or even just with their mind; this action can be called their denial or their fear of something. The second anxiety described by the author is the confusion about how the characters react to something that makes them anxious, making it difficult for them to decide. The third thing that the author described was the anxiety from the characters in the novel about how they lost control of their mind. In this section, some of the characters lost control over their mind because of something that made them panic. This third anxiety occurs in characters like Jamie Fier when Amanda starts to see him in his wolf form and begins to turn into a wolf for the rest of his life. Also, when Jamie rushed to Lucian Goode, he fell to the ground and began to strike him in his wolf form. Meanwhile, the ego and superego only appear in a few sections, not as much as the anxiety before.

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