



### HISTRIONIC PERSONALITY DISORDER IN TENNESSEE WILLIAMS' *A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE*

Humairoh Mandani<sup>(1)</sup>

[meii\\_mandani@yahoo.com](mailto:meii_mandani@yahoo.com)

Dian Eka Sari<sup>(2)</sup>

[cici@stba-prayoga.ac.id](mailto:cici@stba-prayoga.ac.id)

Sekolah Tinggi Bahasa Asing Prayoga Padang

#### Abstract

This research analyzed Histrionic Personality Disorder that portrayed in a drama entitled *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Histrionic Personality Disorder is a mental disruption where the sufferer has a big desire to be the center of attention. The problems which are discussed in this research are the symptoms of Histrionic Personality Disorder and the reasons Histrionic Personality Disorder become worse and severe. The aim of this research is to analyze deeply about Histrionic Personality Disorder issue which occur in the drama. In resolving the issue, the researcher used psychological theory by Blagov et al. The concepts which used are the symptoms of Histrionic Personality Disorder and the treatment for Histrionic Personality Disorder. This research used qualitative method in relation to the use of clear and systematic description about the phenomena being researched.

Key words : Histrionic Personality Disorder, symptoms, causes.



## **I. Introduction**

The concept of Histrionic Personality Disorder was well developed by the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century scholar. Histrionic Personality Disorder or HPD primarily defines as a pervasive pattern of excessive emotionality and attention seeking that begins in early adulthood and presents across situations (Blagov et al, 2007:204). those people behave theatrically, always hopes to engage in flattery and flirtation, and when they want to complain or tell something, they will deliver it dramatically. It also can be seen from their appearance since they like to dress provocatively and make up stories (Blagov et al, 2007, p.204). They often called as a drama queen since them often shows dissemblance of their behavior in daily life.

Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* is chosen as a study source because this drama was on opened in 1947, New York audiences knew a major playwright had arrived, it won a Pulitzer Prize. This drama combines sensuality, melodrama, and lyrical symbolism. Besides, this drama portrayed Blanche DuBois, the main

character who represents the sufferer of HPD by showing several symptoms of HPD and reason HPD become worse and severe.

## **II. Review of Related Theory**

### **2.1 Psychological Theory by Blagov et al.**

In analyzing the drama *A Streetcar Named Desire*, the writer uses psychological theory from Dr. Pavel S. Blagov and his friends named Katherine A. Fowler and Scott O Lilienfeld from Emory University. In their book, they explain about symptoms and treatment of HPD.

### **2.2 The Symptoms of HPD**

Blagov et al., (2007, p. 204) states that HPD primarily defines as a pervasive pattern of excessive emotionality and attention seeking that begins in early adulthood and presents across situations. Individuals may receive the diagnosis if they meet five or more of eight criteria. Those criteria will be discussed as follows.

#### **2.2.1 Uncomfortable**

Feelings in Situations the Sufferer not become the Center of Attention

APA (cited in Blagov et al, 2007, p. 204) states that someone with HPD feels uncomfortable when they do not become the center of attention. They tend to catch attention for themselves and dazzle the new people with their enthusiasm. The sufferer



often asks to other people about all things in themselves such as dressed up, how to dress, and their personal problem.

### **2.2.2 Inappropriate Sexually Seductive or Provocative Behavior**

Blagov et al., (2007, p. 204) states that the sufferer interacts with others often characterized by inappropriate sexually seductive or provocative behavior. They create the impression of using the body as an instrument for the expression of love and tenderness, but this stems from a desire to obtain approval, admiration, and protection rather than a feeling of intimacy or genital sexual desire. Physical closeness is substituted for emotional closeness. The attractive and seductive behavior serves to obtain the love or approval of others rather than to give sexual pleasure to the sufferer.

### **2.2.3 Displays Rapidly Shifting and Shallow Expression of Emotion**

Blagov et al., (2007, p. 204) states that the person with HPD is displays rapidly shifting and shallow expression of emotion. It means that their emotions can be changed immediately when they are in urgent situation. It since the sufferer often makes up stories about reality in their life and

when other people asking about their life, they prefer to lie. The sufferer of HPD has difficulty experiencing deep feelings of love and intimacy, their superficial presentation is quite to the contrary. They are charming and relates to others with apparent warmth, although his emotional responses are labile, easily changeable, and at times excessive.

### **2.2.2.4 Employing Physical Appearance to Attract People's Attention**

Blagov et al., (2007, p. 204) states that the person with HPD is consistently uses physical appearance to draw attention to self. They think that if they have good appearance, it will be easy for them to get attention an approved in the society. The sufferer also often attractive and may appear younger than their age. There is a strong interest in style and fashion, which immediately calls attention to their physical appearance.

### **2.2.2.5 The Style of Speech is Impressionistic**

Blagov et al., (2007, p. 204) states that the person with HPD has a style of speech that is excessively impressionistic and lacking in detail. It since the sufferer often lies about their life just to protect themselves. They like to talk in pleonastic and not right to the point.

### **2.2.2.6 Behave Theatrically or Self-dramatization**

Blagov et al., (2007, p. 204) states that the person with HPD may behave theatrically



to catch attention from other people in their life. The speech, physical appearance, general manner of the HPD sufferer is dramatic and exhibitionistic. In doing communication, they are so expressive and descriptors emphasize feelings and inner experience rather than facts or details. The sufferer likes to tell something in excessive way in order to dramatize a viewpoint and is unconcerned about rigid adherence to truth if a distortion will better accomplish the drama.

#### 2.2.2.7 Suggestible

Blagov et al., 2007, p. 204) states that other symptom of HPD is suggestible. It means that they are easily influenced by others or circumstances. The sufferer is suggestible only as long as the interviewer supplies the right suggestions, those that the sufferer has subtly indicated that their desire but for which they want someone else to assume the responsibility.

#### 2.2.2.8 Consider Relationship to be more intimate

Blagov et al., (2007, p. 204) states that the sufferer of HPD considers relationship to be more intimate than they actually are. They assume that a new people especially man as "my dear". It since they think that a stranger

is a better person who can be the placed which they can rely on. They fear losing the new stranger as they lost their father, and consequently, they select a man who can hold because of their dependent needs.

#### 2.2.3 The Treatment for HPD

A person with HPD needs treatment to solve their problem of desire to get attention. Long term psychotherapy would be beneficial to HPD patients and also likely be cost-effective by minimizing adverse economic outcomes of the disorder (Quality Assurance Project, cited in Blagov et al., 2007, p. 220). There are several therapy for HPD explained by Blagov et al that is Expressive Psychodynamic Therapy and Cognitive Therapy.

From a psychodynamic perspective, HPD is a hysterical character style presenting at the borderline level of dysfunction which characterized by diffuse, global, and impressionistic cognition that makes motivated inattention easy and self- understanding difficult (Blagov et al, 2007, p. 221). In expressive psychodynamic therapy, the therapist is an in-depth form of talk. They are likely to view such pathology as arrested development rather than conflict (Mitchell, cited in Blagov et al., 2007, p. 221). The therapist help the patient by showing empathy, helps the patient label and understand their dreaded feelings, promote tolerance for anxiety



and ambiguity, and helps establish a complex and realistic understanding of the self, others, and relationship. In expressive psychodynamic therapy the therapist focuses on building the alliance with patients (Blagov et al., 2007, p. 222). The therapist will make the patients learn to reflect on their feelings and interaction and make them believe that they can share their negative aspects of themselves without secret.

Another treatment for HPD is Cognitive Therapy. Back and Freeman (cited in Blagov et al., 2007, p. 222) Cognitive therapy conceptualized personal disorder as attributable to dysfunctional schemas that develop out of people's tendencies to cope in certain ways with interpersonal challenges. Since an HPD person had strong dependency and rejection sensitivity tendencies as a child may have received strong reinforcement from others for attention seeking behavior or the exaggerated displays of gender-typed behaviors. In cognitive therapy, the patient will be helped by identify feelings and thoughts and then challenging irrational thoughts, first in relation to specific symptoms and gradually at a more global level (Blagov et al., 2007, p.223). They also

states that by using this therapy, the patient could express their feeling by write down things that describe themselves as a way of building a stable identity, and they may engage in small behavioral experiments to challenge their belief that they depend on other's care and attention.

### III. Method of the Research

In this article, the method that was used qualitative research. Creswell (2009:176) stated that qualitative research is a form of interpretive inquiry in which the researcher make an interpretation of what they hear, see and understand. This technique could be used to analyze the data in form of quotations in drama *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

### IV. Findings

#### 4.1 Histrionic Personality Disorder Symptoms in *A Streetcar Named Desire*

The article analyzes the symptoms of HPD that occurs in Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*. There are several symptoms that are displayed below:

##### 4.1.1 Uncomfortable feeling in situations the sufferer does not becomes the center of attention

Blagov et al., (2007, p. 204) states that the person with HPD will feel uncomfortable in situation in which they are not the center of attention. This statement clearly shows that the sufferer will have bad feeling if they cannot





catch the attention from other people. If they did not get it, they will be angry and sad because they consider that other people do not accept their presence. Blanche Du Bois is a sufferer of HPD. She feels disappointed and sad if she cannot get attention from the people who she thinks as a reliable person. It is seen through the quotation below:

*BLANCHE: Oh, in my youth I excited some admiration. But look at me now! [She smiles at him radiantly] Would you think it possible I was once considered attractive ?*

*STANLEY : Your looks are okay.*

*BLANCHE : I was fishing for a compliment, Stanley.*

*STANLEY : I don't go in for that stuff.*

*BLANCHE : What—stuff ?*

*STANLEY: Compliments to women about their looks. I never met a woman that didn't know if she was good- looking or not without being told, and some of them give themselves credit for more than they've got. I once went out with a doll who said to me, "I am the glamorous type, I am the glamorous type!" I said, "So what?" (P.34)*

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Blanche feels uncomfortable when she did not become the center of attention. It is because she thinks that old-age may cause the absence of admiration. The sentence *Oh, in my*

*youth I excited some admiration* indicates the awareness that she was only admired in her youth. She wants to prove that since she was youth until she is around thirty years old, she is still an attractive woman. By saying like that, she hopes that Stanley will give more attention to her since Stanley does not care her before. The sentence *But look at me now!* clearly shows that Blanche forces other people to give attention to her. This is a real effort made by an HPD sufferer to get back what she or he has ever had in the past that is admiration. The imperative mark “!” shows Blanche uses high tone when she asks for attention. It indicates that she is angry when she did not become the subject. The imperative mark also implies a coercion of Blanche to Stanley to concentrate his attention to her. The stage direction *[She smiles at him radiantly]* shows the gesture of Blanche that implies that she really hopes an attention. By giving smile at Stanley, she hopes Stanley's heart will be melt away and act better to her. The sentence *I was fishing for a compliment, Stanley* tells that she wants attention in compliment form. A compliment can be an evidence of her excellence that is not owned by another people. She thinks that through her excellence, it can make her easier to get compliment and admiration. The phrase *What—stuff?* indicates Blanche's reaction to the treatment that she got from Stanley.



After she did kind of efforts to get attention and compliment, then she just get a flat and rude comment from him. He still does not admire her. Blanche thinks that her self-confidence can increase her excellence in front of others, so it can trigger sympathy and respect from other people. By getting compliment, she can avoid her uncomfortable feeling when she did not become the center of attention.

#### 4.1.2 Inappropriate Sexually Seductive or Provocative Behavior

Through provocative behavior, HPD sufferers assume that their interlocutors will be comfort to talk with them, and as the advantages it will be easier for them to get attention. Blagov et al., (2007, p. 204) states that when the person who affected by HPD interacts with others, it is often characterized by inappropriate sexually seductive or provocative behavior. They create the impression of using the body as an instrument to express love and tenderness, but this stems from a desire to obtain approval, admiration, and protection rather than a feeling of intimacy or genital sexual desire. Physical closeness is substituted for emotional closeness. The attractive and seductive behavior serves to obtain the

love or approval of others rather than to give sexual pleasure to the sufferer. Blanche is a sufferer of HPD who shows the symptoms that is using an unusual body language when she interacts with other people especially a stranger. She consistently does provocative behavior when interact with others especially men. It is seen through the quotation below:

*BLANCHE: You make my mouth water. [She touches his cheek lightly, and smiles. Then she goes to the trunk.] YOUNG MAN: Well, I'd better be going--  
BLANCHE [stopping him]:  
Young man! [He turns. She takes a large, gossamer scarf from the trunk and drapes it about her shoulders.] [In the ensuing pause, the "blue piano" is heard. It continues through the rest of this scene and the opening of the next. The young man clears his throat and looks yearningly at the door.] Young man! Young, young, young man! Has anyone ever told you that you look like a young Prince out of the Arabian Nights? [The Young Man laughs uncomfortably and stands like a bashful kid. Blanche speaks softly to him.] Well, you do, honey lamb! Come here. I want to kiss you, just once, softly and sweetly on your mouth! [Without waiting for him to accept, she crosses quickly to him and presses her lips to his.] Now run along, now, quickly! It would be nice to keep you, but I've got to be good--and keep my hands off children. (P.88)*

From the quotation above, it can be seen that the sufferer of HPD does inappropriate sexually seductive or provocative behavior when interact with others. The sufferer does it



as the effort to be approved by someone and get protection or affection from them. She did it not to have intimate relationship with other people, but only to fulfill their desire to get attention and affection. The stage direction [*She touches his cheek lightly, and smiles*] reflects Blanche's attitudes as the representative when interact with other people. She does provocative behavior to the stranger. She dares to touch the part of the stranger's body without any shame. She feels her desire increases to others even she does not know who the person is. It makes her seems like has a deviant behavior in sexuality. But she does it not to have sex with this person but only to distribute her desire to get affection because of her loneliness. The sentence *The young man clears his throat and looks yearningly at the door* shows his inconvenient feeling since the attitude showed by Blanche but he has no chance to reject it even he feels scared. The phrase *Young man! Young, young, young man!* shows the repetition of Blanche's remarks that refer to her desire to keep in touch with him. She cannot release that man at that time because she wants to have longer time with him. The sentence *you look like a*

*young Prince out of the Arabian Nights* refers to seduction as the effort to get the man's attention in order she can keep in touch with that man. The word *Prince* is a term which refers to high class man in the society. It is a kind of compliment given by Blanche to a stranger in order to make the man feels comfort to being around her. It makes Blanche easier to be closer to the stranger. The stage direction [*Without waiting for him to accept, she crosses quickly to him and presses her lips to his.*] clearly shows Blanche's desire which is not restrained anymore. She cannot control herself to keep her dignity when facing a stranger man. She bravely kisses someone that she does not know just to fulfill her desire. Through this physical touch she hopes that this man will remember her and can come to her next time. She feels comfort when she can find someone who she assumes a reliable person. It can make her forget her problem and her sorrow. The sentence *Now run along, now, quickly!* shows that Blanche kisses the man as media to release her passion and after she got it, she just lets it go. It also can be as evidence that the sufferer of HPD did sexually seductive not to have intimate relationship but only to obtain love and proof of their existence.

4.1.3 Employing Physical Appearance  
to Attract Other People's Attention





The sufferer of HPD tends to use physical appearance to become the center of attention. APA (cited in Blagov et al., 2007, p. 204) states that the person with HPD is consistently uses physical appearance to draw attention to self. It can be seen from the clothes or the jewelry which they use. Those can make them more confident and easily to be accepted in society. This is happen to Blanche, the main character of the drama *A Streetcar Named Desire*. She consistently uses luxurious things in order to make other persons focus on her. The expensive or luxurious things can make her confidence increases and automatically draws attention to self. It can be seen through the quotation below:

*STANLEY : It looks like you raided some stylish shops in Paris.*

*BLANCHE : Ha-ha! Yes--clothes are my passion!*

*STANLEY : What does it cost for a string of fur-pieces like that?*

*BLANCHE: Why, those were a tribute from an admirer of mine! (P.33)*

From the quotation above, it is seen that Blanche focuses on her physical appearance to attract attention from other. To support her physical appearance, Blanche focuses on the

clothes that she wears. She expects that through her clothes, she can give more value to herself and other people respect more on her. The sentence *It looks like you raided some stylish shops in Paris* shows the reaction of Stanley that is expected by Blanche. It is shown that Blanches' effort to be the subject of attention is successful because Stanley realizes the effort of Blanche that by having many fashion collections and give special attention to think about style. The sentence *Ha-ha! Yes--clothes are my passion!* shows the happiness of Blanche because finally she can get attention from others through her physical appearance. For Blanche, clothes are not only things to wear, but the representation of her passion. It means that through clothes she can show her class and prestige because only classy people can buy expensive clothes. When she wears luxurious clothes, it makes her becomes more confident. The sentence *What does it cost for a string of fur-pieces like that?* shows that another people could see the glowing luxuries from her stuff. The people feel interested in the luxurious clothes, so it can fulfill Blanche's purpose that is catching the attention from others. The sentence *Why, those were a tribute from an admirer of mine!* shows that Blanche does not want other people know that she has done many efforts to support her physical appearance by buying expensive things. She does it as the way to



hide the reality of her life and she does not want everybody know about her real life.

#### 4.1.4 Displays Rapidly Shifting and Shallow Expression of Emotion

The sufferer of HPD has unstable emotionality. APA (cited in Blagov et al., 2007, p. 204) states that a person affected by HPD often displays rapid shifting and shallow expression of emotion. Their emotion can be changed immediately in the short time since their emotion is labile and easily changeable. When interacting with others, the sufferer of HPD shows humble and warm behavior although their emotional is labile and can change easily. In the first meeting with a new person, the sufferer also can assume that person as their old friend in order they can be closer even in fact they feel uncomfortable with its relationship, but when their emotionality change due to something that make them feels uncomfortable, their emotionality change without can be controlled. In this case, Blanche DuBois also shows this symptom. Her emotionality can be changed immediately if she is in uncomfortable situation. It can be seen through the quotation below:

*STELLA: I like to wait on you, Blanche. It makes it seem more like home.*

*[She goes into the kitchen, finds a glass and pours a shot of whiskey into it.] BLANCHE: I have to admit I love to be waited on.... [She rushes into the bedroom. Stella goes to her with the glass. Blanche suddenly clutches Stella's free hand with a moaning sound and presses the hand to her lips. Stella is embarrassed by her show of emotion. Blanche speaks in a choked voice.] You're--you're--so good to me! And I—*

*STELLA: Blanche!*

*BLANCHE [hysterically]: I won't, I promise, I'll go! Go soon! I will really! I won't hang around until he--throws me out...*

*STELLA: Now will you stop talking foolish?*

*BLANCHE: Yes, honey. Watch how you pour--that fizzy stuff foams over!*

*[Blanche laughs shrilly and grabs the glass, but her hand shakes so it almost slips from her grasp. Stella pours the coke into the glass. It foams over and spills. Blanche gives a piercing cry.]*

*STELLA [shocked by the cry]: Heavens!*

*BLANCHE: Right on my pretty white skirt!*

*STELLA: Oh... Use my hanky. Blot gently.*

*BLANCHE [slowly recovering]:*

*I know--gently--gently... STELLA: Did it stain? BLANCHE: Not a bit. Ha-ha!*

*Isn't that lucky? [She sits down shaking, taking a grateful drink. She holds the glass in both hands and continues to laugh a little.] STELLA: Why did you scream like that?*

*BLANCHE: I don't know why I screamed! [continuing nervously] Mitch--Mitch is coming at seven. I guess I am just feeling nervous about*



*our relations. [She begins to talk rapidly and breathlessly] (P.84)*

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Blanche's emotionality can be changed rapidly. She cannot control her behavior when she is under pressure and it makes her lose control. The stage direction *Blanche suddenly clutches Stella's free hand with a moaning sound and presses the hand to her lips* shows that when Blanche is in a panic situation, she can lose herself. She can do something unusual as the way to protect herself. When somebody began to realize about her lie, she tries to defend herself by acting like a weak person. The stage direction *Stella is embarrassed by her show of emotion* refers to Stella's reactions who realize that Blanche does not behave as usual. She realizes that something is wrong with her sister and makes her attitude different. The stage direction *Blanche speaks in a choked voice* tells the change of Blanche's emotion through her voice. Blanche's voice tends to be unusual because she is in the situation of fear. The sentence *I won't, I promise, I'll go! Go soon! I will really! I won't hang around until he-- throws me out* refers to Blanche's decision when she is in a pinched situation. She tries to convince Stella to

believe in her because she thinks that Stella knows her mistake and she is afraid if Stella asks her to go. She talks stammered, incomplete, and not clear because her mind is not focused. By giving the statement that she will go by herself, it can change Stella's point of view to her. The sentence *I don't know why I screamed!* indicates that Blanche screams unconsciously and uncontrolled. She also feels confused with the situation that she is facing. A normal person can control their feelings when they are in an under pressure situation. But for the sufferer of HPD, they cannot control their feelings. The word *scream* shows the fear of Blanche if any people know her past. She had tried to release her bad experience in the past to get a better life by having a relationship with an appropriate man, but when someone tries to remind her past, she suddenly shows an inappropriate reaction as a normal person. The stage direction *[continuing nervously]* tells that the panic situation occurs in a long period of time. It is a hard and difficult moment for Blanche. The nervous feeling defeats her and makes her lose control. It is because the sufferer of HPD has an excessive nervousness. They always feel afraid and doubt to other people. The stage direction *[She begins to talk rapidly and breathlessly]* refers to the way which is chosen by Blanche to solve her problem. She does not try to explain her problem but she tries to leave her problem.



#### 4.1.5 Considers Relationship to be More Intimate

The sufferers of HPD need someone to help them to solve their problem. They hope that person can be their savior and guide. They can share their sorrow, problem, and difficulties with that person who can understand their condition. They assume that if they have a person who they can be believed, their condition will be better. The person who they hope to be their savior is their own family or friend. In contrast, it is different with the sufferer of HPD. They prefer to rely their life on a stranger. They assume a stranger has kindlier heart and can save their life. This condition makes some sufferer assumes a stranger not only as a friend but can be their soul mates. APA (cited in Blagov et al., 2007, p. 204) states that the sufferer of HPD considers relationship to be more intimate than they actually are. It is because they think that a stranger is a better person who can be the place which they can rely on. They assume that the stranger as "my dear". They fear of losing the new stranger is as the same as losing their father, and consequently, they select a man who can hold them.

Blanche shows this kind of HPD symptoms. She assumes that the doctor as the stranger who came to bring her to insane asylum is her savior. This condition makes her voluntarily surrender herself to that doctor and assumes that doctor as the beloved one. It can be seen through the quotation below:

*MATRON: Jacket, Doctor?*  
*DOCTOR: Not unless necessary.*  
*BLANCHE [faintly] : Ask her to let go of me.*  
*DOCTOR [to the Matron] : Let go. [The Matron releases her. Blanche extends her hands toward the Doctor. He draws her up gently and supports her with his arm and leads her through the portieres.]*  
*BLANCHE [holding tight to his arm] : Whoever you are--I have always depended on the kindness of strangers.*

From the quotation above it can be seen that Blanche considers relationship to be more intimate than she actually is. She could give herself to a stranger who she assumes can save her life. In this case, the stranger is a doctor who understands about her condition. The phrase *Not unless necessary* indicates an irony that is professionalism is based on a good and satisfying service, not on accessories. By seeing the personality of this doctor, it makes Blanche believe to this doctor. She believes him not as a doctor but as a stranger who can be as her protector. The sentence *Ask her to let go of me* shows Blanche is believe to the doctor as a reliable and believable person. She asks





the doctor to release her since she believes the doctor will protect her even she does not know actually the man is a doctor. She just thinks it is a stranger and assumes him as someone who she loves. The sentence *Blanche extends her hands toward the Doctor* refers to Blanche gesture that she really surrenders to the stranger and she gives full trust to him. The sentence *holding tight to his arm* tells that Blanche does not want to release him since she thinks that the man is her beloved one and she can spend her life for this man. By holding tight, it can be seen that Blanche gives her full trust to stranger and assumed that she will depend her life to him. The sentence *Whoever you are--I have always depended on the kindness of strangers* refers to Blanche's recognition towards her habit that like to have relationship to the stranger. Blanche thinks that the stranger is someone who comes to protect her and bring her to go out from her problem. Finding an appropriate stranger is a dream of Blanche.

#### 4.2 The Reason HPD become worse

As another mental disruption, Histrionic Personality Disorder (HPD) also can become worse

and it is caused by many things. In drama *A Streetcar Named Desire*, it can be seen that there are two reasons why can HPD become worse and severe that are inappropriate treatment and trauma.

##### 4.2.1 Inappropriate Treatment

Inappropriate treatment can become one reason why HPD suffered by someone become worse. HPD is a kind of mental disruption where the sufferer needs attention, approval, affection, admiration, and protection in excessive levels. If someone really wants to be a subject in the society, it can be detected that this person feels lonely and weak. But in fact, not all sufferers can express this feeling. It makes them did not get appropriate treatment to cure their HPD because their own family do not realize their disorder.

There are some ways to cure HPD. One of the ways is conducting some therapies to relieve the sufferer's mental disorder. Blagov et al. (2007, p.220-224) states that to cure HPD, the sufferer needs to get some therapy such as cognitive therapy and expressive psychodynamic therapy. But in contrast, not all sufferers got this treatment because sometimes the sufferers do not realize that they are really suffered from HPD, so that they feel that they do not need the therapies. This





situation could trigger HPD becomes worse and severe. It occurs to the main character Blanche DuBois who got inappropriate treatment from their family. It is considered inappropriate because they only bring her to insane asylum. It is seen through the quotation below:

*BLANCHE [retreating in panic]: I don't know you--I don't know you.  
I want to be--left alone--please!  
MATRON: Now, Blanche!  
ECHOES [rising and falling]:  
Now, Blanche--now,  
Blanche--now, Blanche!  
STANLEY: You left nothing here but spilt talcum and old empty  
perfume bottles--unless it's the paper lantern you want to take with you.  
You want the lantern? [He crosses to dressing table and seizes the paper lantern, tearing it off the light bulb, and extends it toward her. She cries out as if the lantern was herself. The Matron steps boldly toward her. She screams and tries to break past the Matron. All the men spring to their feet. Stella runs out to the porch, with Eunice following to comfort her, simultaneously with the confused voices of the men in the kitchen. Stella rushes into Eunice's embrace on the porch.]  
(P.152)*

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Blanche DuBois got inappropriate treatment from her family. Her behavior is assumed as unusual thing and did not acceptable to live in similar society with them. The stage direction *[retreating in panic]* shows the gesture of Blanche when she is in panic situation. The gesture of retreating shows a terrific fear of Blanche when she saw somebody who she should not have met. *I don't know you--I don't know you. I want to be--left alone--please!* shows that Blanche is forced to be brought to insane asylum since her family assumes her as abnormal person and need to be handled there. She pleased to others to give her opportunities to keep living with her family. The phrase *left alone* refers to expression of a truly in- depth help request to her family. She did not want to be separated from them. She needs protection from her family. The sentence *Now, Blanche--now, Blanche--now, Blanche!* shows the treatment received by Blanche is not friendly. From the imperative mark “!” it can be seen that the other person talk to her with high tone that refers to coercion and anger. Blanche who is usually acts graceful, should get rude treatment. The sentence *She cries out as if the lantern was herself* shows that Blanche has lost control and express her feeling only through weeping and shouting. The phrase *the lantern* shows that Blanche represents it as herself. When the lantern seizes, it refers to



Blanche feeling which feel deep sadness. The sentence *Stella runs out to the porch, with Eunice following to comfort her* clearly shows that Blanche's sister realizes that she has done wrong way in treating her sister. She realizes that she is not supposed to be rude to her sister and give Blanche other opportunities to be able to live with her in normal way and situations.

#### 4.2.2 Trauma

Family has a strong relationship to the development of a mental disruption, including HPD. Blagov et al. (2007, p.212) states that the clinicians have long theorized about the contribution of developmental events and family environment to the development of HPD. It can be seen that family has a big influence to the development of HPD which affect the sufferer. The treatment which received by the sufferer from their family can make HPD change. It can be better or change to be worse. If the family treats the sufferer kindly by understanding the feeling of the sufferer, it can help much. In contrast, if the sufferer got bad treatment from their family, it can make their HPD become worse. This bad treatment can lead to trauma. In this case, Blanche

DuBois experiences trauma through her husband and her sister's husband. It can be seen through the quotation below :

*Blanche : Yes, I had many intimacies with strangers. After the death of Allan--intimacies with strangers was all I seemed able to fill my empty heart with.... I think it was panic, just panic, that drove me from one to another, hunting for some protection--here and there, in the most--unlikely places-- even, at last, in a seventeen-year-old boy but--somebody wrote the superintendent about it-- "This woman is morally unfit for her position!" (P.128)*

From the quotation above, it can be seen that trauma can make HPD suffered by someone become worse and severe. In this case, Blanche got trauma from her husband. The sentence *Yes, I had many intimacies with strangers. After the death of Allan* clearly shows that Blanche feels trauma since her husband did suicide in front of her. Based on that accident she prefers to drape her life to stranger. The sentence *intimacies with strangers was all I seemed able to fill my empty heart* shows that the sufferer of HPD feels comfortable with the stranger. In this case, Blanche like to have unusual relationship to the stranger because she assume that it is the way to wreak her regret to her husband because she becomes the reason



why he died. She assumes that by giving herself to stranger she could give affection that it supposed she gives to her husband before he dies. The sentence *drove me from one to another, hunting for some protection* refers to the effort of Blanche to get attention from others. She does not embraces even she should move from one man to another man just to get protection from them. The sentence *at last, in a seventeen-year-old boy* shows that Blanche does not care who will be the victim of her desire to get protection even it just a young man. This behavior also makes her expelled from her hometown because she is assumed as immoral woman.

Blanche DuBois experiences deep trauma not only from her husband who has lied to her and do suicide in front of her. These accidents give big trauma to Blanche. To solve her trauma, she decides to try to find another man who can cure her sorrow. This decision leads her into a mental disruption. She has a big desire to be the center of attention in order she can ignore her loneliness. In contrast, the fact is she did not find an appropriate man. Unfortunately, she trapped into another accident which makes her trauma become

worse and it cause her HPD also increases and severe. She is raped by her younger brother in law, Stanley. It is seen through the quotation below:

*STANLEY: Oh! So you want some rough-house! All right, let's have some rough-house! [He springs toward her, overturning the table. She cries out and strikes at him with the bottle top but he catches her wrist.] Tiger--tiger! Drop the bottle top! Drop it! We've had this date with each other from the beginning! [She moans. The bottle top falls. She sinks to her knees. He picks up her inert figure and carries her to the bed. The hot trumpet and drums from the Four Deuces sound loudly.] (P.141)*

From the quotation above it can be seen that Blanche also experienced trauma caused by Stanley. Stanley raped her and it makes Blanche traumatic. It makes HPD suffered by Blanche become worse and severe. She needs protection from her family but in contrast she got bad treatment from Stanley. The sentence *All right, let's have some rough-house! [He springs toward her, overturning the table* refers to bad attitude of Stanley. She did rude thing toward Blanche who usually act graceful like educated woman. He hurts Blanche by raping her because he does not like Blanche. By raping Blanche, it will make Blanche's psychological condition become worse. It makes Stanley easy to remove Blanche from his family life. The



sentence *He picks up her insert figure and carries her to the bed* clearly shows that Blanche has no ability to oppose Stanley. She feels down and thinks that she has nothing to be respected anymore.

## V. Conclusion

Histrionic Personality Disorder (HPD) is a kind of a mental disorder where the sufferer has a big desire to be the center of attention. It makes the sufferer of this mental disruption cannot has a nice relationship with others because they just focus to draw attention to themselves, and as the impact it make them cannot undergo a relationship in a normal way.

In *A Streetcar Named Desire* drama, it can be seen several symptoms of HPD showed by Blanche DuBois as the sufferer. Those symptoms are uncomfortable feeling of the sufferer if not become the center of attention, interact with provocative behavior, consistently uses physical appearance, emotionality, and considers relationship to be more intimate than it is supposed to be. Based on those symptoms, the researcher also found another symptom which can relate to others mental disorder that is phobia. In this case,

Blanche phobia to several things such as feels afraid to stand under the light. It can make her feels less confidence. She also likes to take a bath for hours to decrease her nervous feeling. Those behaviors seem like refer to other mental disruption.

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