

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

America is known as a country with millions of opportunities for its people who have dreams of living happily which is formed since the beginning of American independence in 1776. Happiness is defined as the freedom for everyone to choose how they live which then extends into stereotypes among society. This stereotype is often published through many popular mass media such as magazines, newspapers, to the entertainment world which is then consumed by people around the world until finally created a popular term known as the 'American Dream'. The American Dream is not tied or limited to things like money, houses, cars, or any other material forms only. Some consider that getting a decent education, being able to support family, or living to do what makes them happy until death comes are also part of the American Dream (Bruno, 2019).

The belief of common people about the great opportunity they will get while living in America is none other than because of wide economic access. America, which is famous for its materialism system among its people, has two effects that affect economic mobility in the country, which are creating individual satisfaction and long-term financial success (Yoon & Kim, 2016). Following today's modern era condition that continuously increase, money is the main goal of the majority people in the world. Thus, finding a place that has a great opportunity to support them is the main factor for people to settle in America. An American Dream concept proposed by an analyst named Hochschild states

that the American Dream still depends on the level of desire of a person to have a better life to support the popularity and development of its ideology (Sardoč, 2017).

The spread of these stereotypes has succeeded in shaping the image of America as a country with minimal shortcomings in every aspect. People believe that America is an absolute country with flawless dreams in the term of life. In fact, through data summarized by the Statista Research Department on October 20 2023, in 2021, there were 1,313,200 criminal cases reported to American courts covering murder, robbery, and rape. Criminal cases such as murder are considered to have a major impact on the community's ability to get balanced access to education, economy, housing ownership, and health mobility. In July 2016, there were 15,070 homicides, with 7,881 African-American victims and 6,576 are white people. The number of homicide cases cannot be separated by the eventual impact such as injuries that weaken the quality of life of the victim to death (Frazer et al., 2018).

Crime can occur and take place due to several crucial factors that support an individual or group in committing their crime. A factor that is often discussed as one of the main supports of crime is age. Age can give an explicit description of how a person's mental state is. For example, as high school students, most of them are experiencing an awareness of independent living, facing obligations and laws that exist in the environment, to other rules that can limit their daily movements (Rocque et al., 2016). Other factors that support the increase in crime rates in a country cannot be separated from the factors of regulations or laws that apply in that country. As for the example, Mexican government shut down all access to drug-dealing organizations, this regulation

has resulted in a decrease in drug-related violence cases in the country. When reviewing crime in America, we should not exclude the problem of policies that apply in each state in America.

One of the serious issues that becomes a hot topic among the media and the public today is the law regarding gun ownership in America. The freedom to own a gun for every individual in America is a major factor why America cannot escape crime in its public sphere, especially crimes involving firearms. Many perpetrators of crimes such as robbery, violence, and murder use firearms as a tool of resistance against victims. The increase in the number of firearm ownership in America is closely related to the increase in crime rates such as robbery, violence, to murder cases (Monuteaux et al., 2015). Criminal cases involving the free use of weapons in the United States continue to increase as there is no update on gun ownership regulations. Reported by CNN, the statistical number of cases of mass shooting in United States per 2023 calculated to be the highest suffering since 2022. As of in April 2023, the number of fatalities was 16 victims and 28 people injured in shooting cases in Alabama and Louisville. The worst mass shooting, based on the news was in America occurred in 2017 precisely in Las Vegas with a total of 604 victims, and 58 of them were declared dead (Follman et al., 2023). The raising of mass shooting cases in United States creates serious and great concerns among the public.

Public places that should be built as a form of care to society have currently changed its meaning due to the emergence of cases such as school-shooting in many places in United States. Up until April 2023, according to data from The Violence Project, school is in the top 7 on the list of most targeted place for mass shooting. National Center

for Education Statistics USA published data regarding the exact number of school-shooting in America which said there are 783 cases in total for elementary and secondary schools since 2000s. From 2013 to 2014, the percentage of schools which became crime occurred, including school-shooting was calculated up to 65% (Katsiyannis et al., 2018). If reviewed through the data on cases of accidents due to firearms with children in age 12 to 17 as the object of study, there were 1,300 children who became victims as by these, 53% were homicides with victims aged 13 to 17 years (Dahlberg, 2017). Reported by ABC News on December 27 2022, more than 6,000 students were killed and injured after the shootings incidents and considered as the highest number after 2021.

As a result of widespread concerns in society, several experts conducted research related to mass shooting crime in America as evidence that there should be new regulations and social change. The results of the study explain several important factors why the perpetrators carry out mass shooting. One of them is to become famous and seek public attention. In the midst of American society that continues to compete with technology and modern markets such as social media, becoming famous or celebrity is the ideal of many individuals in America. Social media provides space for each user to compete to get high attention or engagement in each their posts. This ideology has many bad effects towards the condition of society in America. Many people start doing unlogic or crazy things to get attention, and one of them is by killing innocent people (Lankford & Silver, 2020).

Another study published in 2017 analyzed the safety systems in each school to measure the effectiveness of successfully avoiding school shooting as a form of protection

for students. In the study, the researcher believe that there are other important actions as a form of protection other than changes in laws or regulations from the government. Researcher presents data that were taken from several school shooting cases and stated that there was a lack of communication such as reports from during, before, and after school shooting happened. This is one of the factors that support the shooting actions carried out by the perpetrators, because, they do not see any loopholes to be seized by the authorities. The solution presented by the researcher in overcoming this problem is that there must be significant cooperation between schools and the police, as well as access to detect the presence of metal detectors in each school (Jonson, 2017).

However, in this study, the researcher provides information or studies that were not submitted by previous researcher, which is the consequences of school shooting on the well-being of victims. In the previous described study, the researcher did not mention any striking impact that school shooting causes on the people at the scene. Victims or communities who experienced traumatic events such as school shooting should be the main object of concern for the government and the public in dealing with the aftermath of the tragedy. The reason researcher focus on the impact on victims is because according to the data, survivors from mass shooting proved had suffered many mental disorders that require a short and long-term recovery time. Some of the mental disorders experienced by victims are major depression, PTSD, and generalized anxiety disorder. In all three disorders, the time needed by victims varies from one victim to another. People with PTSD and MD need 18 months of recovery and 1 week of recovery (Lowe & Galea, 2017).

Quoting from the UN Declaration on the Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power (1985), victims can be defined as persons (individuals or groups), who have harmed both physical or mental injury, emotional suffering, financial or economic loss or substantial impairment of their fundamental rights, through acts or omissions that are in violation of criminal laws operative within Member States, including those laws proscribing criminal abuse of power. Every person who considered victims shall be applicable without any kind of discrimination, such as race, color, sex, age, language, religion, nationality, political or other opinion, cultural beliefs or practices, property, birth or family status, ethnic or social origin, and disability. In this case, the crime of mass shooting is considered as a criminal act that has been planned, intentional, by using a firearm with the aim of killing or injuring the victim located in a school, workplace or other public places. The characteristics of people whom targeted for mass shooting are the ones that considered innocent, defenseless, and people that unlikely become victims of crimes.

Victims are human beings and as a personal or individual form has a social nature. Humans will continue to establish social relationships through meaningful communication with others because of the bare minimum need. This need is defined as helplessness in meeting one's own needs by relying only on oneself (Listia, 2015). This is why victims of school-shooting certainly need help both emotional and physical support. Emotional support can be provided through professional counselors such as psychologists, to families.

The U.S president has been delivering about this concerning problem through his speech of how unhappy, dissatisfy, and how insecure he is with the current situation (Al Fajri et al., 2022). The U.S. government and schools are trying to find the best way to deal with victims of school shooting in a variety of ways. One of them is through the application of student counselors in each school as the main role to recognize and understand the changes and development of victims. The counselor's obligation is to be aware of potentially students with mental health disorders, to consistently provide support in collaboration with mental health bureaus, and to hold open discussions with parents with the knowledge and understanding about mental health and gun crime (Paolini, 2015). However, the attached journal states many shortcomings of School Counseling Services. As a counselor, data collection is crucial to determine the success rates in treating a patient. However, there is a lack of effectiveness in school counselors in America in their ability to use these data which then affects student achievement (Anita & Carol, 2015). Thus, the purpose of researcher in assessing the influence of school shooting on victims is to expect a change in the level of public awareness and a better change in handling school shooting victims.

These lists horrific facts started to be the biggest talk-topic of the public and media. Several entertainment industries have also taken contributes to boost this tragedy through films or series. One of the movies that carries the theme of school-shooting is “*The Fallout*” directed by HBO that was released in last 2022. This movie that played by Jenna Ortega focuses in discussing how the school-shooting becomes the most painful tragedy in her life. “*The Fallout*” successfully provides a significant picture of how the

school-shooting process takes place in great detail and realism. The portrayal of the victim's condition after the incident also carries a psychological impact and how the victim tries to get up in many ways. Through "*The Fallout*" the movie, it shows the symptoms of PTSD with a fine detailed depiction. All forms of attitudes that mark PTSD and depression symptoms in "*The Fallout*" will be described following PTSD theory guidelines and previous research. Another theory used in this study is Symbolic Interactionism which focuses on the meaningful communication between victim, her family, and counselor. The scenes that appeared in "*The Fallout*" gives the message that parents have a big role in the development and recovery of the child after the traumatic event she has experienced.

In this study, researcher used PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) theory and Interactionism to support the success of the study. In this study, the author used PTSD theory presented by previous research journals. PTSD is defined as an ongoing reaction or long-term maladaptive process triggered by death, death threats, serious physical injury, and threats to the safety of self or others (Wahyuni, 2016). In this case, school-shooting has impacted victims through threats of personal safety, death threats, to death of other victims. Therefore, in this study researcher did not discuss in detail about PTSD such as its groups or discussions that refer to clinical, but only analyzed the characteristics shown by victims of school shooting with PTSD symptoms.

Researcher also provide an important picture of the role of the closest person to the victim in supporting the recovery of the victim's mental health. Meaningful interaction and communication can have a huge positive impact on a child's reliability, or ability to



return to what it was before the event. Brooks and Goldstein (Novianti, 2018) mentioned that there are 10 treats of parents in supporting the formation of reliability in children such as empathy, effective communication, listening, making children feel valued, changing negative scenarios, helping children solve problems, and so on.

## **B. Problem Formulation**

In this study, researcher will discuss several important issues, namely:

1. What is the impact of school shooting on victim as seen in the movie "*The Fallout*" (2022)?
2. What is the role of family and counselor in supporting the recovery of school shooting's victim as seen in the movie "*The Fallout*" (2022)?
- 3.

## **C. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of this study are:

1. To analyze the impact of school shooting on victim as seen in the movie "*The Fallout*" (2022).
2. To analyze the role of family and counselor as supporters of the recovery of school shooting victim through as seen American Movie "*The Fallout*" (2022).

## **D. Review on Related Studies**

Research in 2021 entitled "Effect of Mass Shootings on the Mental Health of Children and Adolescents" by Valentina Cimolai et al (2021) explain that gun violence is

a criminal act that causes emotional symptoms that damage the process of victims' mental health system. Researchers use qualitative methodology by utilizing data in the form of the number of mass shooting cases through legal institutions in America. According to the study, it is said that gun violence has impacted not only on direct victims but also on families and other social communities. In the short period after the incident of gun violence, victims who are children will give reactions such as PTSD symptoms that occur in the long term. Some of the symptoms shown by victims are trauma symptoms such as denial, shock, disbelief, feelings of fragility, the arise of vulnerability, and threaten their sense of safety. Several forms of significant symptoms often arise such as nightmares, avoidance of anything related to the incident, sleep disturbance, difficult in concentrating, intrusive thoughts, and irritability.

Other study entitled "How do Mass Shootings Affect Community Wellbeing?" by Aparna Soni and Erdal Tekin (2020) use respondents of various backgrounds such as age, sex, marital status, parental status, race and/or ethnicity, and educational attainment. Researchers also use secondary data in the form of representative data taken from the Gallup-Healthways survey that examined the effects of mass shooting on the mental health and emotions of people in social communities. The data are obtained through research using a period of 28 days before mass shooting, and 28 days after mass shooting occurred. It shows that victims of mass shooting were not able have perfect emotion wellbeing within 4 weeks of tragedy. Thus, 10 victims showed a 6.6% decrease in the ability to have good emotional health, and 9.9% refuse to have good social and emotional

health. In addition, research shows that mass shooting is able to decrease in the likelihood of victims to have excellent overall social and emotional health by 47%.

Since 1999, school shooting cases in United States have increased to 249 cases which as a result killed 147 victims of various ages. A study entitled "Local Exposure to School Shootings and Youth Antidepressant Use" by Maya Rossin-Slater et al (2020) targeting vulnerable school- shooting victims under the age of 20 to test the increase in antidepressant use after the tragedy. Researchers use 44 cases of school shooting in several primary and secondary schools across the United States as a sample. Researchers calculate the use of antidepressants in several locations close to school shooting or related locations. Researchers find an increase of 24.5% and an increase of up to 21.3% in the use of antidepressants in treatment areas after fatal school shooting occurred which proves that school-shooting have a significant psychological impact on children and adolescents.

While the other journal entitled "Long-lasting Consequences of Gun Violence and Mass Shootings" by Ali Rowhani-Rahbar et al (2019) briefly discusses how school-shooting cause long-term major depression in victims by using one of the real cases that occurred in 2019 precisely in Florida and secondary data in the form of the number in percent of mass shooting cases in America through official institutions. Two students who survived a school- shooting in Florida have been found dead after committed suicide few times after the shootings. School-shooting is stated to be able to have long-term psychological and emotional effects on each victim and other social communities such as families. Researchers believe that the occurrence of mass shooting resulted the changes in the character of public life in the United States. The characteristics changes dominated

by mental health changes require the United States government to increase the development of post-traumatic and mental health services with the aim of overcoming the consequences that occur in the United States.

One of the supports that are expected to be received by victims of post-traumatic disorder is social support for the community, especially parents. Another study entitled "Dukungan Sosial dan Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Pada Remaja Penyintas Gunung Merapi" by Fatwa Tentama in 2014 discussed this form of support. Survivors of the Mount Merapi event with vulnerable ages 12 to 15 years are declared to have difficulty to increase post-traumatic stress disorder due to the lack of social support they got. The needs of social assistance aim to foster self-confidence, feel accepted, feel cared, feel recognized, and to increase the possibility of PTSD victims returning to their normal lives.

While in another study entitled "PTSD symptoms in healthcare workers facing the three coronavirus outbreaks: What can we expect after the COVID-19 pandemic" by Claudia Carmassi et al (2020), shows that natural disaster events also could provide a potential of PTSD. This became consideration for the social community to hold parenting training for victims of natural disasters infected with PTSD. The existence of social networks and family as a form of social support has succeeded in helping people with PTSD during the recovery period. The social support that PTSD survivors can receive in this study is the importance of the motivation given in convincing them to learn different skills.

Similar training was held in a district in Yogyakarta in Sleman entitled "Pelatihan Pola Pengasuhan Menghadapi Anak Trauma" by Alfiandy Warih Handoyo in 2020

provide concrete results that parents were able to master the caregiving of companions for children with trauma. Thus, dealing with children with trauma can have a similar effect on parents. Meanwhile, if parents experience stress during parenting, parents will give 15% of the effect of deviation when the child grows up. Some stages or ways that can be applied by parents in dealing with children with trauma disorders are: validation, child-centered time, exposure, play therapy, behavior change, observing limit, dan consequence.

The studies above have similarities in the form of discussions about the impact of psychology on victims of mass shooting and family roles and the influence created by the interaction between patients of trauma symptoms with the closest person through the recovery phase. While the difference is that the described researcher above uses real cases as research objects, while this study uses the American movie "*The Fallout*" as the object of research.

## **E. Research Methodology**

This research is an American Studies study which require the researcher to analyze a case by using two or more theories. Thus, this research uses two theories which are psychological theory and sociological theory. The psychological theory is the theory of PTSD or Post-traumatic stress disorder by Freud (1917) and the sociological theory is Interactionalism presented by Blumer (1937).

In supporting the success of a research, there are stages that must be carried out as an initial framework for a research process. One of them is to choose a research method

that matches the research topic. The research method is based on 3 main aspects such as rational, empirical, and systematic. Rational means that the research process and the subjects discussed in the study can be assessed in a reasonable way or human reasoning. Empirical means that the processes carried out during the study can be seen, felt, or observed by the human senses. While systematic means that the steps in research are logical or through a structured process (P. D. Sugiyono, 2015).

Since the research relies on the ability of narrative techniques, therefore the methodology is qualitative methods. Qualitative methods are methods used to analyze or examine natural objects. Natural objects are objects as they are that are not manipulated by the presence of the researcher. In qualitative methods, data analysis is an inductive or in the form of facts found in the field until it is constructed into hypotheses or theories. (D. Sugiyono, 2013).

#### 1. Data and Source Data

Data are an important element in analyzing a study. In supporting the analysis process in this study, the researcher used two data, such as primary data and secondary data.

##### a. Primary Data

Primary data are mental evidence which will be taken from the movie "*The Fallout*" (2022). The data were in the form of scenes, dialogues, and body language of characters of the are the influence of school shooting on victim and how social interaction supports the healing process of victim.

##### b. Secondary Data

Secondary data were taken from scientific journals, articles, and other printed official government websites or any official news websites that will be used to strengthened the analysis.

## 2. Method and Technique of Collecting Data

The process and technique of data retrieval of primary data were conducted by first, watching “*The Fallout*” film, understanding the content and topic of the story, and sorting out the scenes into different topic. The sorted scenes attached with the analysis discussion and detailed minutes, which were analyzed using the two main theories and secondary data in the form of journals or other sources. However, to collect secondary data, the researcher reviewed the journal, observed at the background of the content of the study, the methodology and theory, as well as the results of the topics and used it as the assistance in analyzing primary data.

## 3. Method and Technique of Analyzing Data

Data analysis is a systematic and structured process to find and compile data that has been obtained from the results through research materials. The purpose of data analysis is to organize data, then explain it into several parts, do synthesis, arrange it into patterns, sort out which parts are important to learn, and then make conclusions (P. D. Sugiyono, 2015).

In analyzing primary data obtained through the movie “*The Fallout*”, the researcher used two main theories as references. The researcher has selected scenes in the film that show indications of all objective of the study. The scenes

which were analyzed are the scenes that clearly provide patterns or characteristics of PTSD (Post-traumatic stress disorder) based on the theory of Freud and the forms of interaction between victims and parents and counselors in supporting the recovery period of victims after traumatic tragedies based on the Symbolic Interactionism theory by Blumer. By using qualitative methods, researcher used journals that discuss these two topics as a support to analyze primary data and that will be structured in the form of a distinct and descriptive narrative.

#### **F. Presentation**

This research is divided into four chapters. Chapter one is introduction which includes background of the study, problem formulation, objectives of the study, scope of the study, review of related studies, research methodology, theoretical approach, research plan, and presentation. Chapter two consist of several sub-chapters, such as the theoretical approach which consist of a psychological and sociological approach. And then there is theoretical framework which is filled by Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Symbolic Interactionism. Chapter three is analysis of the research questions, and the last chapter is the conclusion and suggestion.