

CHARACTERISTICS AND CAUSES OF SOCIOPATHY SUFFERED BY KAZ BREKKER AS SEEN IN *SIX CROWS* BY LEIGH BARDUGO

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Abstract

The research discussed the characteristics and causes of sociopathy suffered by Kaz Brekker as seen in *Six Crows* by Leigh Bardugo. As the study talked about the mental health issue of the character in the novel, it applied psychoanalysis approach by Mahroof Hussain. The characteristics of sociopathy were analysed using Kathleen Smith's theory and to identify the causes of sociopathy, Xuanxin Wen's theory was employed. To collect data, the library research was carried out. The descriptive qualitative method was used to analyse the data. The result of the research indicated that there were four characteristics of sociopathy suffered by Kaz Brekker. Those characteristics were risk-taking, deceitfulness, hostility, and manipulation. The causes of sociopathy suffered by Kaz Brekker were getting neglected, experiencing violence, and experiencing trauma in his childhood.

Keywords: sociopathy, characteristics of sociopathy, causes of sociopathy, psychoanalysis

INTRODUCTION

Psychology is an aspect that can be depicted in literature. The focus lies on a character's thoughts, desires, emotions, and feelings to explore the character's psychological state. According to Utama in the book *Literary Psychology*, "there is a reason for including literature psychology in the study of literature. It is to discover the behavior and motivation of the characters in literature. Character's behavior and motivations appear in everyday life, either directly or indirectly" (2004, p.138). Therefore, the core interest of psychology in literature lies in emotional and mental aspects of the character.

One of psychological aspects that can be depicted in a novel is mental illness called sociopathy. Sociopath is a term used to describe someone who has antisocial personality disorder (ASPD). People with ASPD cannot understand others feelings. They will often break rules or make impulsive decisions without feeling guilty for the harm caused. (Bhambhani, 2021, p.18) This statement is supported by Kathleen Smith in her article entitled "Antisocial Personality Disorder". She states "sociopath is defined as someone who may ignore right and wrong, as well as occasionally the feelings of others, to treat others ruthlessly, and show no remorse for their actions" (2021, p.1).

The development of sociopathy is thought to be strongly influenced by a variety of factors, including childhood trauma and child abuse. Xuanxin Wen in the journal "The Influential Factors of Antisocial Personality Disorder" states that "there are many reasons for it, which can be divided into biological level and natural level. Despite different special brain structures, genetic and environmental factors are sometimes controversial since genes may contribute to half of the

variance, and the environment will contribute to the other half in antisocial behavior” (2021, pp. 566-567). Certainly, in many cases, the absence of maternal affection in one's environment can be a fundamental factor contributing to the development of sociopathic traits. Even though the exact cause of sociopathic condition is utterly unknown. Still, many experts believe that sociopathy is more of an environmental than a genetic construct.

Leigh Bardugo's novel entitled *Six of Crows* portrays a character who suffers from sociopathy. The story presents Kaz Brekker and his crew, attempting to pull off an impossible heist. Kaz is known as a skilled thief and criminal prodigy who establishes himself in Ketterdam, the city of international trade and criminal organizations, by turning the Dregs (a gang of thieves) into a reckoned gang. Kaz moves to Ketterdam to start a new life with his older brother, Jordie. Kaz considers Jordie as his protector and mentor after their father's death. They encounter a man, Pekka Rollins, the boss of the Dime Lions – a rival gang. He disguises as a businessman named Jakob Hertzoon, who cons Kaz and Jordie out of money and leaves them on the streets in utter misery. When an outbreak of firepox strikes, they are presumed dead and their bodies are dumped into the ocean. Kaz who is still alive has to swim back to Ketterdam, using his dead brother's body as a float. Then, Kaz joins a gang to cut off his past and changes his surname from Rietveld to Brekker. Then, he decides to make Pekka Rollins pay for what he had already done to his brother and him. Therefore, he becomes a leader with a cold personality, an intelligent mastermind, is ruthless and manipulative for his advantage; meanwhile, he is also emotionally struggling because of his trauma. Besides, by becoming a leader, Kaz also wants to show that he is now as powerful as Pekka. Thus, he fulfils his intention to take revenge.

From the synopsis above, it can be seen that Kaz Brekker shows tendencies of suffering from sociopathy. His traumatic experiences in the past trigger some tendencies of sociopathic characteristics, such as manipulative, risk-taking, irresponsible and it will be analysed further.

In analyzing the topic, the psychoanalysis approach is employed because the research is related to psychological theories. Mahroof Hossain in his journal “Psychoanalytical Theory Used in English Literature: A Descriptive Study” states that psychoanalytic literary criticism can focus on the author, the character, the audience, and the text (2017, p.43). He develops the concept from Sigmund Freud's theory that the author is influenced by the psychoanalytic concepts which are reflected in the characters of his works and their mind.

There are some previous studies that also talk about the sociopathic issue. The first is Yuli Angraini's journal entitled “The Analysis of Sociopath of Louis Bloom's Character in *Nightcrawler*”. She studies the main character in the movie *Nightcrawler*. In her studies, she focuses on analyzing the several types of sociopath characters and describing the effect on Louis Bloom's ambition. The second one is Himmah Malini's thesis entitled *Character in Jeffery Deaver's Speaking in Tongues*. She focuses on analyzing the sociopath characteristics that are reflected in Aaron Matthews's character and how the characteristics trigger Aaron to take revenge for his son's death. The third

previous study is Muhammad Dzaky Murtadha's article entitled "An Analysis of Sociopathic Attributes of Sherlock Holmes in A Studying Scarlet." He focuses on the sociopath characteristics attributed to the character of Sherlock Holmes. He employs several theories to resolve the issue, such as Genette's Focalization, Minderop's Characterization, Hare's Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R), and Scarlet's Categorized of Hare's PCL-R Items. Thus, this study is clearly different from those previous researches. Even though the study talks about sociopathy issue, it employs different object material which is the novel entitled *Six Crows* and the theories by Kathleen Smith and Xuanxin Wen. Those previous studies also contribute as the sources that broaden the writers' knowledge regarding sociopathy issue so that the writers can write a research paper on sociopathy from different perspective. This paper then aims to study the characteristics and causes of sociopathy suffered by Kaz Brekker as seen in Leigh Bardugo's *Six Crows*.

METHOD

Data Collection

To collect the data, the method used in this study is library research. The sources are taken from the written materials in library and internet browsing. Leigh Bardugo's *Six Crows* is the primary source of data. Other supportive materials are taken from theoretical books and articles published in journals related to sociopathy topic.

Data Analysis

The data analysis is carried out using the descriptive qualitative method. It means close reading is employed to find the data. The analysis was done by correlating all the data (dialog, monolog, narration) taken from the play with the proposed theory.

DISCUSSION

Sociopathy

People with sociopathy disorder are incredibly successful, intelligent, and endearing, but they might take advantage of others for their benefit. According to Bhambani, et al in their journal "Psychopathy and Sociopathy: A Modern Understanding of Antisocial Personality Disorder," sociopaths may also employ "mind games" to manipulate those around them, including total strangers. They could be regarded as charming or charismatic as well (2021, p.18). Yildirim and Derksen states that "sociopath is characterized by heightened emotional responsiveness to perceived threats, a normal to the high prevalence of internalizing disorders like anxiety and depression, as well as antisocial behavior, impulsivity, and behavioral disinhibition" (2013, p.1296).

David T. Lykken in his book entitled *The Antisocial Personalities* believes that there is reason for concern if children of neglectful parents are beginning to show signs of blooming sociopath, such as risk-taking, fearlessness, aggressiveness and who are tough, who are not very bright, who are prematurely charming and successfully manipulative, who are highly sexed or have

violent tempers (1995, pp. 30-31). In addition, Natasha Tracy in her article “Psychopath vs Sociopath: What’s the Difference?” states that “a person who is diagnosed as a sociopath may develop sociopathy as a result of physical or sexual abuse, as well as a traumatic accident, particularly if the paralimbic system is harmed. The structure of the brain that plays a major role in emotional processing, self-control, and motivation is known as the paralimbic system” (2022, p.1). Therefore, sociopathy is not a mental disorder that is formed since a person is born, but rather, develops along with someone’s mental growth process.

Characteristics of Sociopathy

People suffering from sociopathy can show a variety of signs and behave differently depending on the situation. Despite the fact they lack of emotional capacity, the major characteristic is that they restrict themselves from having empathic emotions and feelings. According to Kathleen Smith, there are five characteristics of sociopathy, including risk-taking, impulsivity, hostility, deceitfulness, and manipulation. A person must exhibit at least three of the following characteristics to be called as a sociopath.

Risk-Taking

Even though they frequently violate the law, sociopaths are not an issue for the law; instead, they seek out ways to move onward, simplify their authority, or migrate so that their behavior is acceptable. Andrew E. Skodol and his friends in the book *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder* defines risk-taking, as “an aspect of *Disinhibition*: engagement in dangerous, risky, and potentially self-damaging activities, unnecessarily and without regard for consequences; boredom proneness and thoughtless initiation of activities to counter boredom; lack of concern for one’s limitations and denial of the reality of personal danger (2013, p.764). Therefore, the sociopath engages in risky activities without considering the consequences. This behavior often arises from boredom, leading them to do things just to pass the time. They tend to ignore potential dangers and their own limits. This highlights the importance of thinking before acting impulsively.

The example of risk-taking is when a sociopath has driven by his desire for power and control over others. He takes pleasure in pushing boundaries and challenging societal norms, viewing himself as above the law. This disregard for consequences allows him to engage in increasingly dangerous acts without fear of being caught (Skodol, 2013, p. 764).

Deceitfulness

Sociopaths frequently get found lying, exaggerating, or distorting the truth to achieve their goals. Andrew E. Skodol, et al. in the book *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder* states that “a deceitful representation of dishonesty and fraudulence; misrepresentation of self;

manipulating other when relating events” (2013, p.764). It means deceitful representation involves dishonesty, fraud, misrepresentation, and manipulating others in storytelling. This highlights complex human interactions, emphasizing the need for trust and transparency.

The example of deceitfulness is when a sociopath claims to have attended Oxford University and inherits his wealth from a deceased family member. However, it later reveals that he was born into poverty and acquires his wealth through illegal activities, such as bootlegging. This deception allows him to infiltrate high society and gain acceptance among the elite (Skodol, 2013, p. 764).

Impulsivity

A sociopath is often in a reckless, irresponsible, impulsive manner when making decisions throughout his lives. According to Andrew E. Skodol, et al. in the book *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder*, impulsivity is a form of disinhibition that involves contempt for duties and commitments, both financially and morally (2013, p. 764). As a result, there is insufficient planning and a propensity to act hastily without giving the consequences much thought.

The example of impulsivity is when a sociopath is able to respond or act spontaneously to an unexpected thing. He engages in violent acts without any rational motive or remorse. He brutally murders innocent people simply because he feels the urge to do so. Such a person lacks of empathy and disregard for human life and act solely on his immediate desires without considering the consequences or moral implications (Skodol, 2013, p. 764).

Hostility

Sociopaths are more prone to be violent or abusive against others, while some sociopaths may also employ more subtle kinds of violence (such as bullying, guilt, teasing, etc.) to get what they want. Andrew E. Skodol and his friends in the book *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder* define hostility as persistent or frequent angry feelings; anger or in response to minor slights and insults; mean, nasty, vengeful behavior (2013, p. 764). Thus, people who suffer sociopath disorder might easily become enraged, lashing out, or seeking retribution in response to apparently minor offenses.

The example of hostility is when a sociopath takes pleasure in inflicting pain on others, reveling in their suffering. His actions are driven not only by a desire for dominance but also by a need to assert his superiority over those he perceives as weaker or inferior. He also extends beyond physical violence. He engages in psychological manipulation, gaslighting those around him to maintain control over their perceptions of reality (Skodol, 2013, p.764).

Manipulation

To influence others' behavior and decisions, sociopaths frequently behave in their self-interest. Ackerman in her journal states that "manipulation can be used to gauge people's motivations, characteristics, and behavior. More importantly, manipulation frequently suggests persuading someone to act otherwise than how they now behave" (1995, p. 335). They accomplish it by being charming, convincing, and empathetic. Andrew E. Skodol, et al. in the book *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder* defines manipulation as the regular use of deception to manipulate or oppress others; the use of seduction, charm, snobbery, or ingratiation to further one's goals (2013, p. 764). Thus, the sociopaths use their superficial charm and high IQ to manipulate others and disregard people's emotions even their safety or others.

The example of manipulation done by sociopaths can be seen in their ability to charm and deceive those around them. This charm allows them to manipulate people into doing things they would not normally do, whether it is giving them money or carrying out their sinister plans. They will twist situation and manipulate others' perceptions. This tactic allows the sociopaths to control over their victims (Skodol, 2013, p. 764).

Causes of Sociopathy

Xuanxin Wen's theory focuses on the specific relationship between genetic and environmental factors. Therefore, it is established that environmental factors and genetic factors are the causes of sociopath.

Genetic Factor

There may be certain genetic traits that predispose some people to become sociopaths. Genetic factor are the causes that enable children to obtain genetic information from their parents. Brooke Schwartz in her article "Sociopathy in Children," states that peer or paternal influences, such as modelling and approval of physical aggression, in combination with a genetic predisposition can increase the likelihood a child will develop aggressive traits as the characteristics of sociopath" (2023, p.1). However, genetic factors have been shown to account for almost half of the variances in sociopathic behavior. Nonetheless, researchers are still investigating several specific gene variants in various patients and genetic factors.

Environmental Factor

The environment is also a crucial component in the formation of sociopathy. According to Xuanxin Wen in her journal "The Influential Factors of Antisocial Personality Disorder," childhood experiences can be a significant factor. Witnessing horrific crimes and experiencing violent crime might leave minors at risk of becoming sociopaths. Additionally, different growing environmental influences can be proven to be other significant factors (2021, p. 567). Thus, childhood

experiences due to his living environment, including exposure to violence and trauma, can elevate the risk of sociopathy. In this case environmental influences during growth also contribute the formation of sociopathy. Early intervention and supportive environments are essential to counteracting these tendencies.

Different growing environmental influences, such as unsupportive environment for child growth can be proved to be another significant environmental factor. According to Kathleen Smith in her article "Antisocial Personality Disorder," people who suffer from sociopathy because of environmental factor is when they receive poor discipline since childhood, have negative role models, or not taught to respect the rights of others (2020, p. 1). In addition, Brooke Schwartz in her article "Sociopathy in Children," states that, parental harshness alone has been found to increase children's aggressive behaviors and sociopathic traits (2023. p. 1). Therefore, sociopathic tendencies rooted in environmental factors are often linked to childhood discipline, role models, and respect for others' rights. Parental harshness alone can heighten aggression and sociopathic traits in children, emphasizing the profound influence of early upbringing on this behaviour.

Characteristics and Causes of Sociopathy Suffered by Kaz Brekker in Leigh Bardugo's Six Crows

Risk-Taking

The first sociopathy characteristic is risk taking. Someone is being risk taking when he engages in dangerous actions, ignoring social norms and laws, overstepping social boundaries, and destroying property.

Kaz Brekker shows risk-taking trait when Geels, the leader of a rival gang, wants to wrest control of Fifth Harbor, one of the main harbors in Ketterdam, from the Dregs gang of thieves led by Kaz. Though the rules of street engagement say one must come to the gang meetings unarmed, Geels pulls a gun on Kaz. However, Kaz calmly stands looking at Geels coldly, and tells him to shoot him. Then, Kaz's sniper shoots Big Bolliger instead and it surprises Geels. Big Bolliger is once a member of Kaz' rival crew and he is a traitor who disguises as a spy from a rival gang.

'So do it,' Kaz said. Inej risked a look down. His voice had changed, all humor gone.

'Should I have them put a bullet in your good leg, Brekker?'

'Stop talking, Geels. Tell them to shoot.'

'Kaz – 'said Jesper nervously.

'Go on. Find your balls and give the order.'

What game was Kaz playing? Had he expected this? Had he just assumed Inej would find her way to the guards this time?

'Fire!' Geels shouted.

A gunshot split the air. Big Bolliger let loose a cry and crumpled to the ground. (Bardugo, 2015, p. 29)

Based on the quotation above, Kaz Brekker is being risk taking by the potential risk or consequences that he and his crew might face as he might get shot by Geels.

The second evidence of Kaz Brekker being risk-taking is when he discusses the plans for the mission to make their way to the Ice Court, a military stronghold and seat of the nobility of Fjerda. Kaz says that they might go at the same time when Hringkalla holds an annual event in Fjerda (the icy nation) that occurs on the spring equinox, the Day of Listening. However, there will be checks for the present guests before the event. Then Kaz suggests that they enter the Ice Court as themselves.

‘We enter as we are,’ Kaz said. ‘As criminals. The prison is our front door.’

‘Let me get this straight,’ said Jesper. ‘You want us to let the Fjerdan lock us in jail. Isn’t that what we’re always trying to avoid?’

‘Criminal identities are slippery. It’s one of the perks of being a member of the troublemaking class. They’ll be counting heads at the prison gate, looking at names and crimes, not checking passports or examining embassy seals.’

‘Because no one wants to go to prison,’ Jesper said.

Nina rubbed her hands over her arms. ‘I don’t want to be locked up in a Fjerda cell’

(Bardugo, 2015, pp.136-137)

In the quotation above, Kaz Brekker’s actions to get access to the Ice Court by ignoring social norms or law shows his risk-taking characteristic. He suggests that the crew use their criminal identities so that they can enter the Ice Court – a military stronghold, without inspection. In this case, Kaz Brekker fearlessly ignores the consequences. He tells the crew to be purposely captured and imprisoned in the Ice Court where they avoid the most.

The last evidence of Kaz Brekker being risk-taking is when he and his crew already set foot in Fjerda (the icy nation). Kaz continues to explain the detail for the heist. After they smuggle into the Ice Court, a military stronghold, Kaz divides their task to carry out the mission of kidnapping Bo Yul-Bayur. He is the scientist that creates a powerful drug for someone with authority. The plans also includes the time they will escape the Ice Court.

Nina crossed her arms. ‘Let’s say this all works. How do we get out?’

‘We walk,’ Kaz said. ‘That’s the beauty of this plan. Remember what I said about guiding the mark’s attention? At the embassy gate, all eyes will be focused on guests coming into the Ice Court. People leaving aren’t a security risk.’

‘Then why the bombs?’ asked Wylan.

‘Precautions. There are seven miles of road between the Ice Court and the harbour. If someone notices Bo Yul-Bayur is missing, we’re going to have to cover that territory fast.’

He drew a line in the snow with his walking stick. ‘The main road crosses a gorge. We blow the bridge, no one can follow.’

Matthias put his head in his hands, imagining the havoc these low creatures were about to wreak on his country's capital (Bardugo 2015, p. 237).

According to the quotation above, Kaz Brekker shows his risk-taking action by destroying one of the bridges in the Ice Court. He destroys the bridge by blowing it up using bombs. Kaz is bravely to take a risky action to blow up the bridge. His plan to destroy the bridge is also a sign of precaution so that he and his crew can escape without being followed by the authorities.

Deceitfulness

The second sociopathy characteristics is deceitfulness. In this case, a sociopath might misrepresent himself and use a false identity to manipulate others for his personal gain.

Kaz Brekker's deceitfulness can be seen when the Dregs, a gang of thieves lead by Kaz, are preparing to meet with a rival gang, the Black Tips. Inej, a member of the crew joins Kaz in a dangerous heist. She climbs a nearby building to survey the meeting place. She watches Kaz from a distance, presuming he is not like most of the gang members who always wear flashy clothes. She sees, Kaz wearing a simple, dark suit tailored to fit him, and a black hat – the outfit of a Ketterdam merchant. It is proven below:

At first, she'd thought it was a matter of taste, but she'd come to understand that it was a joke he played on the upstanding merchants. He enjoyed looking like one of them.

'I'm a businessman,' he'd told her. 'No more, no less.'

'You're a thief, Kaz'

'Isn't that what I just said?' (Bardugo, 2015, p. 25)

The quote above shows that Kaz Brekker is a deceitful person by playing a merchant role. He wears a simple dark suit tailored that fits him, a black hat and gloves. He uses the merchant identity as a ploy so that people will not accuse him as a thief.

Kaz Brekker also shows his deceitfulness when Kaz and his crew escape from the cells then meet up in the basement. He puts the plan to find Bo Yu-Bayur, the scientist who creates drug for someone who has power, by crossing the embassy sector. In order to get access to the glass bridge, the gateway to White Island – the capital city of Fjerda, Kaz plans to steal the clothes from the embassy. His idea is for the crew to get changed into fake clothes to deceive the guards so that Kaz Brekker and his crew can cross the bridge without inspection.

'The guards on the bridge will assume we passed through the embassy gate and had our papers scrutinized there.' Wylan frowned. 'In prison uniform?'

'Phase two,' said Jesper. 'The fake.'

'That's right,' said Kaz. 'Inej, Nina, Matthias, and I will *borrow* a change of clothes from one of the delegations – and a little something extra for our Bo Yul-Bayur when we find him – and stroll across the glass bridge. We locate Yul-Bayur and get him back to the embassy. Nina, if there's time, you'll tailor him as much as possible, but as long as we don't trigger

any alarms, no one is going to notice one more Shu among the guests.’ (Bardugo, 2015, p. 236)

The quote above shows Kaz Brekker’s deceitfulness. It is when he suggests his crew to use false identity. Kaz orders the crew to change into the clothes he stole from the embassy so they can disguise themselves from the guards as members of the delegation. Therefore, Kaz Brekker deceitfulness is to manipulate the guards in order to kidnap Bo Yul-Bayur without anyone noticing.

Hostility

The third sociopathy characteristics suffered by Kaz Brekker is hostility. In this case, sociopaths are prone to be violent or abusive against others, while they might also employ more subtle kinds of violence (such as bullying, guilt, teasing, etc.) to get what they want.

The first evidence of Kaz Brekker’s hostility is when he and Matthias, a member of his crew, stay behind at The Crow Club, a gambling house on Ketterdam operated by Kaz. Matthias attacks Kaz and tries steal the pardon in Kaz’s coat pocket. The reason of his attack is because Kaz shows him an apology letter for his crimes which allow him to return to Fjerda and become soldier again. Though Kaz is much smaller than the muscular Matthias, he anticipates the attacks. Then, Kaz easily slipped out of Matthias’s grip before ruthlessly beating him with his cane.

He smacked Helvar behind the right leg with his cane. The big Fjerdan collapsed. When he tried to shove up again, Kaz kicked him.

‘Stay down, you pathetic skiv.’

Kaz knocked his cane gently against Helvar’s jaw. ‘For every trick you’ve seen, I know a thousand more. You think a year in Hellgate hardened you up? Taught you to fight?

Hellgate would have been paradise to me as a child. You move like an ox – you’d last about two days on the streets where I grew up. This was your one free pass, Helvar. Don’t test me again. Nod so I know you understand.’

Helvar pressed his lips together and nodded once.

‘Good. I think we’ll shackle those feet tonight.’ (Bardugo, 2015, pp.142-143)

The quote above is the evidence of Kaz Brekker’s hostility. He attacks Matthias to weaken him from his aggression. It shows that Kaz Brekker takes out his dominance to prevent Matthias from taking the pardon letter by striking him back with a cane. Thus, Kaz Brekker shows hostility by being violent toward Matthias to control his aggressiveness.

The second evidence of Kaz’s hostility is when Kaz brings Inej, a member of the crew, onto the boat. He orders Nina, a member of the crew, to use her power to heal Inej even though Nina is not a healer. Jesper and Matthias capture Oomen, one of the members of a rival gang – the Black Tips, and bring him to Kaz. Then, Kaz rips out one of Oomen’s eyes to get him to reveal who ordered the attack when they were still in harbour.

He made a neat slash across Oomen's eye – from brow to cheekbone – and before Oomen could draw breath to cry out, he made a second cut in the opposite direction, a nearly perfect X. Now Oomen was screaming.

Kaz wiped the knife clean, returned it to his sleeve, and drove his gloved fingers into Oomen's eye socket. He shrieked and twitched as Kaz yanked out his eyeball, its base trailing a bloody root. Blood gushed over his face (Bardugo, 2015, p. 170).

According to the excerpt above Kaz Brekker's hostility is seen when he aggressively does violence towards Oomen to reveal the person who ordered his gang to attack in the harbour. In this case, Kaz Brekker shows his sadism by inflicting pain on other to assert his superiority to get information from his enemy.

Manipulation

The fourth characteristic of sociopathy is manipulation. Manipulation is done by influencing or persuading someone to do something for the sake of one's personal goal. The person who has this characteristic uses his superficial charm to deceive other people to do something for his own interest.

The first evidence of Kaz Brekker's manipulation is when Kaz encounters Geels, the leader of the Black Tips – a rival gang, who wants to take over Fifth Harbor, one of the main harbors in Ketterdam. Geels pulls a gun on Kaz after revealing he blackmails one of Geels's gang member. Kaz Brekker also persuades Geels's gang member to shoot Big Bolliger who is the traitor. Besides, Kaz tells Geels that he is going to put his girlfriend in danger. Kaz is lying to Geels that he has already ordered his crew to burn her alive if Kaz gets hurt by Geels.

'She lives at Nineteen Burstraat,' Kaz said in his gravelly rasp. 'Three floors up, geraniums in the window boxes. There are two Dregs waiting outside her door right now, and if I don't walk out here whole and feeling righteous, they will set that place alight from both ends with poor Elise trapped in the middle. Her blonde hair will catch first. Like the wick of a candle.'

'You're bluffing,' said Geels, but his pistol hand was trembling.

Kaz lifted his head and inhaled deeply. 'Getting late now. You heard the siren. I smell the harbour on the wind, sea and salt, and maybe – is that smoke I smell, too?' There was a pleasure in his voice. Again, Geel's finger twitched on the trigger (Bardugo, 2015, pp. 34-35).

The quote above provides the evidence of Kaz Brekker's manipulation to influencing Geels emotions by threatening to harm Geels' girlfriend, Elise.

The second evidence of Kaz's manipulation is when Matthias, a member of the crew, awakes and is tied up in a dark room. Kaz tells him about the break into the Ice Court, a military stronghold in Fjerda – an icy nation. At First Matthias refuses to help because he views the mission

as a betrayal of his people. However, Kaz shows him a written pardon for his crimes, which would allow him to return to Fjerda and become a *druskelle*, a holy soldier from Fjerda – an icy nation.

Kaz, however, didn't seem surprised. If anything, he looked pleased. Matthias had the uncomfortable sense that the demon had known exactly how this would play out.

'I can give you something better,' said Kaz.

What could be better than revenge? 'There's nothing else I want.'

'I can make you a *druskelle* again.'

'Are you a magician, then? A *wej* sprite who grants wishes? I'm superstitious, not stupid.'

'You can be both, you know, but that's hardly the point.' Kaz slipped a hand into his dark coat. 'Here,' he said, and gave a piece of paper to the bronze girl. Another demon. This one walked with soft feet like she'd drifted in from the next world and no one had the good sense to send her back. She brought the paper up to his face for him to read. The document was written in Kerch and Fjerdan. He couldn't read Kerch – he'd only picked up the language in prison – but Fjerdan was clear enough, and as his eyes moved over the page, Matthias' started to pound (Bardugo, 2015, p. 122).

The passage above shows Kaz Brekker as a manipulative person. It is when he persuades Matthias to join his crew for breaking the Ice Court. He manipulates Matthias' motivation by promising him a freedom. After the break succeeds, Matthias can become a soldier in his country again. Therefore, Kaz's manipulation makes Matthias agree to join the crew although he is previously reluctant to do so as he saw the mission as a betrayal to his country.

Causes of Sociopathy Suffered by Kaz Brekker

The cause of Kaz Brekker's sociopathy mostly comes from the environmental factor. According to Xuanxin Wen in her journal "The Influential Factors of Antisocial Personality Disorder," childhood experiences can be a significant factor. Witnessing horrific crimes and experiencing violent crime might leave minors at risk of becoming sociopaths. Additionally, different growing environmental influences can be proven to be other significant factors (2021, p. 567).

Kaz Brekker was Neglected when He was a Child

The first cause of Kaz Brekker to suffer from sociopathy is that he got neglected by someone whom he trusted so much. When Kaz was nine, he and his older brother, Jordie, came to Ketterdam after their father's death. After few days in the city, Kaz always stayed at a lodge waiting for his older brother who promised get a job. However, in the end his brother never got a single job. While they were walking around the city, they met Filip, a boy who sold wind-up dog. Then, he introduced them to a businessman called Jakob Hertzoon; his original name was Pekka Rollins – the leader of the Dime Lions. Afterwards, Jordie worked for him as a runner. After that, Hertzoon

told Jordie about a promising investment opportunity. Jordie who trusted Hertzoon gave their entire inheritance. It turned out, Pekka Rollins broke all the promises.

Finally, Jordie worked up the courage to knock on a neighbour's door. 'Yes?' said the maid who answered in her little white cap.

'Do you know where the family next door has gone? The Hertzoons?'

The maid's brow furrowed. 'I think they were just visiting for a time from Zierfoort.'

'No,' Jordie said. 'They've lived here for years. They –'

The maid shook her head. 'That house stood empty for nearly a year after the last family moved away. It was only rented a few weeks ago.'

'But –'

She'd closed the door in his face. Kaz and Jordie said nothing to each other, not on the walk home or as they climbed the stairs to their little room in the boarding house. They sat in the growing gloom for a long time. Voices floated back to them from the canal below as people went about their evening business.

'Something happened to them,' Jordie said at last. 'There was an accident or an emergency. He'll write soon. He'll send for us.'

That night, Kaz took Saskia's red ribbon from beneath his pillow. He rolled it into a neat spiral and clutched it in his palm. He lay in bed and tried to pray, but all he could think about was the magician's coin: there and then gone (Bardugo, 2015, pp. 226-227).

From the quotation above, Kaz Brekker experienced neglect after he and his older brother trusted Hertzoon, who promised a profitable investment. However, Hertzoon suddenly disappeared after deceiving them by taking all of their money and leaving them penniless. Being orphans and regarding Peka Rollins as their new family, they trusted him so much. However, Peka Rollins had neglected them by deceiving them to take their money. Being neglected had shaped Kaz into a distrustful person. He could not trust another person and slowly he becomes a manipulative person. Kaz tends to influence someone to do something for the sake of his benefit.

Kaz Brekker Experienced Violence

The second cause of Kaz suffering from sociopathy is that he experienced violence. In his childhood, Kaz Brekker got abused by a gang of boys because Kaz and his older brother stayed in their territory. It happened after Mister Hertzoon, whose original name was Pekka Rollins and the leader of the Dime Lions, deceived him and Jordie so that their money was gone. Consequently, they had to live on the city streets when the pandemic swept through the city.

They slept beneath a set of stairs in an alley behind a tavern, tucked between a discarded stove and bags of kitchen refuse. No one bothered them that night, but the next they were discovered by a gang of boys who told them they were in Razorgull territory. They gave

Jordie thrashed and knocked Kaz into the canal, but not before they took his boots.

Jordie fished Kaz out of the water and gave him his dry coat (Bardugo, 2015, p. 293).

According to the passage above, Kaz Brekker experienced violence when they wandered around the city to survive. When they stayed in a place near an alley and were discovered by a gang named Razorgull, Kaz Brekker got violence from the gang and they threw him until he got knocked out of the canal. At that time, the city environment which was full of gangs that control the entire area. This causes Kaz to experience violence for the first time in his life. This experience made Kaz Brekker become a ruthless person because he watched that all the people around him solving problems using violence. Therefore, Kaz Brekker's hostility develops since his childhood. He gets used to solve problems using violence due to his aggressiveness.

Kaz Brekker Experienced Trauma

The third cause of Kaz Brekker to suffer from sociopathy is experiencing trauma. The trauma was caused by the death of his brother because the firepox in the pandemic and he had to survive by himself. Being deserted in the sea with his brother's dead body, barely alive and too weak to swim on his own, he used Jordie's body as a float and swam back to Ketterdam harbour.

When night came, and the tide changed direction, Kaz forced himself to lay hands on Jordie's body. He was too frail to swim on his own, but with Jordie's help, he could float. He held tight to his brother and kicked towards the lights of Ketterdam. Together they drifted, Jordie's distended body acting as a raft. Kaz kept kicking, trying not to think of his brother, of the taut, bloated feel of Jordie's flesh beneath his hands; he tried not to think of anything but the rhythm of his legs moving through the sea. He heard there were sharks in these waters, but he knew they wouldn't touch him. He was a monster now, too (Bardugo, 2015, p. 295).

This traumatic experience turned him into a fearless person who bravely takes risks. It triggers his risk-taking sociopath characteristic and he always does dangerous actions without fear of the consequences.

Kaz Brekker's childhood trauma has changed him into different person. After his brother died, he was alone in the city, he had to survive without depending on anyone.

The swim back from the Reaper's Barge had been Kaz's rebirth. The child he'd been had died of firepox. The fever had burned away every gentle thing inside him.

Survival wasn't nearly as hard as he'd thought once he left decency behind. The first rule was to find someone smaller and weaker and take what he had (Bardugo, 2015, p. 335).

The excerpt above shows that he has to count on himself to survive in his life without anyone to rely on as this is the only way to be able to survive in a city full of violence and crimes. Therefore, the unsupportive environment makes Kaz Brekker turn into a cold-hearted and aggressive person.

CONCLUSION

In the novel entitled *Six of Crows*, Kaz Brekker is a character who suffers from sociopathy disorder. He shows four sociopathy characteristics. They are risk-taking, deceitfulness, hostility, and manipulation. There is no proof in the novel supporting impulsivity trait, so the writers do not present the discussion of the trait. The cause of Kaz to be a sociopath is his environmental factor in his childhood. During his childhood, Kaz got neglected, experienced violence, and trauma. However, no cause of the sociopathy from genetic factor is not seen in the novel.

The first characteristic of his sociopathy is risk-taking. Kaz's ignores potential risks and social norms or laws. He also destroys public property for his gain. The second characteristic is Kaz's deceitfulness as he uses a false identity. The third characteristic is Kaz's hostility. It is shown when he is physically violent and exhibits sadism towards other people. The fourth characteristic is Kaz's manipulation. It is shown when he influences people's motivations for his own benefits.

Additionally, the writers identify the cause of Kaz Brekker's sociopathy is the environmental factor, particularly his childhood experiences. The first cause is Kaz's experience of being neglected after placing his trust in a man who promised him and his brother a profitable investment. However, the man absconded with all his money, leaving Kaz impoverished and neglected. The second cause is Kaz's exposure to violence due to poverty. As he and his older brother wandered around the city, they encountered a gang that violently abused them. As a loner, being neglected, experiencing traumatic event, and experiencing violent, Kaz Brekker lost a chance to grow up as a normal child. Additionally, he grew up in an unsupportive environment and had to take care of himself without relying on anyone. This led him to develop the characteristic of a sociopath.

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