

**BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER IN ALEX MICHAELIDES'S
*THE SILENT PATIENT***

A THESIS

**Presented in a Partial Fulfilment of The Requirements for Completing the
Sarjana Degree in Department of English Literature**



By

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2023

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Daniel Filbert

ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyse any indications of Borderline Personality Disorder that appears in Alex Michaelides's *The Silent Patient*. The objectives of this research are to find the symptoms, cause, and the effect of Borderline Personality Disorder in the two main characters of Theo Faber and Alicia Berenson. The writer uses the qualitative method and employs psychological approach to analyse the data. There are nine symptoms of Borderline Personality Disorder according to American Psychiatric Association namely, extreme mood swings, shifting self-image, emptiness, paranoia and dissociation, unstable relationship, fear of abandonment, tantrums or uncontrolled anger, impulsivity, and suicide and self-harm. Meanwhile, the cause of Borderline Personality Disorder is divided into two, biological factors and environmental factors. Lastly, the effects of Borderline Personality Disorder are classified into four aspects namely, relationship, work or school, law, and physical health. The result of the study suggests that Theo Faber exhibit eight symptom out of nine excluding tantrums or uncontrolled anger. Meanwhile, Alicia Berenson also exhibiting eight symptoms out of nine excluding fear of abandonment. The environmental factors that caused Borderline Personality Disorder to emerged in Theo Faber is his traumatic childhood of physical abuse by his father. Similarly, Alicia also suffers from traumatic childhood of verbal abuse by his father and aunt and she also witnesses her mother's death in a car accident. Lastly, the effect of Borderline Personality Disorder found in Theo Faber are relationship, law, and physical health, meanwhile the effect of Borderline Personality Disorder in Alicia Berenson are relationship and law.

Keywords: Borderline, Personality, Disorder, Patient, Symptoms.