

## **Portrayal of Dissociative Identity Disorder Experienced by The Main Character in “Glass” (2019) Movie**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This research uses a descriptive qualitative method to analyze the depiction of dissociative identity disorder (DID) experienced by Kevin in the film “Glass”. The purpose of this study is to examine whether Kevin’s portrayal of DID is in accordance with the diagnostic criteria stated by American Psychiatric Association (2013) in its book entitled "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders". A descriptive qualitative approach is applied because it allows the researcher to interpret scenes, dialogues, and character behaviors in depth without using numerical data. This method is suitable for film analysis since it focuses on meaning, context, and detailed description, as suggested by Sukmadinata (2011). The data were collected through repeated observation of the film, focusing on scenes that show personality changes, emotional reactions, memory gaps, and interactions with other characters. These scenes were then analyzed by comparing Kevin’s behaviors with the DSM diagnostic criteria for dissociative identity disorder. This process helps identify which symptoms are clearly represented in the film. The results show that Kevin’s character fulfills six out of the seven criteria for dissociative identity disorder. These include the presence of multiple distinct personalities, changes in sense of self and behavior, memory disturbances, depersonalization, distorted perception of reality, and difficulty regulating emotional stress. One criterion, related to significant disruption in relationships or career, was not clearly found. The findings suggest that “Glass” presents a strong representation of DID and can be used as a reference for understanding the disorder in popular media, while also encouraging critical discussion about mental health portrayals in films.

**Key words:** Psychological Approach; Mental Disorder; Dissociative Identity Disorder

### **INTRODUCTION**

The instant an individual emerges from the mother's womb, their life officially begins. People go through different experiences starting in childhood. The first time one walks smoothly, the first time one rides a bicycle, or the moment one gets fed by their mother. All of these are a part of the experiences of life. We meet many people. Everyone leaves an impression on us. Some are good and some are bad. We

also have experiences with these people. But some experiences might also leave a person with scars (Wulandari & Samanik, 2022). One term for these scars is trauma. Sasikumar et al. (2021) states that "Trauma is a profound term that has been ongoing and has a stable position in human psychology."

People can get permanent scars from trauma (Ardesis, 2022). Trauma is an injury to a person's psyche that results from events beyond their control (Jorm, 2000). Such trauma might be caused by numerous things. Sutrisno & Meilina (2020) pointed out that trauma can be caused by rape, war, child abuse, etc. When something has anything to do with the trauma source, people get extremely protective of it.

According to Putri et al. (2021) a literary work is a fictional composition in which the writer employs their creative imagination to depict a range of issues and occurrences in everyday life, therefore maintaining the coherence of the narrative. The term "literature" most frequently refers to imaginative works such as fiction, poetry, nonfiction, journalism, drama, poetry, and, occasionally, songs (Hidayat & Indarujati, 2020). One form of nonfiction work is a movie. Wirjayanti & Mustofa (2021) believe that the actual world and movies are nearly same. We are able to view the outfits and colors they are using, the expressions on the faces of the characters, the renderings of dangerous gestures, the portrayals of pleasant and terrible individuals, and other details that are not visible when reading the text (Akbar & Hariani, 2021). Meanwhile Surayya & Purwarno (2022) mentioned that a movie is a type of artistic work that conveys concepts, narratives, emotions, sentiments, beauty, or ambiance.

The movie chosen by the researcher is titled "Glass" which was released in 2019. Starring James McAvoy and directed by M. Night Shyamalan, "Glass" is the third and concluding film of the "Unbreakable" and "Split" trilogies. The movie "Glass" tells the story of Kevin Wendell Crumb is a former zoo employee who suffers from dissociative identity disorder (DID). He has 23 personalities that allow him to transform into another person in an instant. Not just in mindset, but also in accent and mannerisms. One of them is The Beast, a ruthless human cannibal. Three weeks after the many events caused by Kevin, David Dunn began acting as a vigilante or a person who tries to enforce justice in his own way. He calls himself The Overseer. David is no ordinary man; he is the sole survivor of a train accident 19 years earlier. Together with his son, Joseph, he roams Philadelphia to enforce justice, and one of his big goals is to find Kevin. Armed with a vision that Kevin is still holding four cheerleaders captive, David attempts to visit a defunct factory.

As a result, he manages to find the four people who are being held according to the visions he got and frees them. However, Kevin is already in the position of being The Beast which makes the two of them fight. The fight between David and Kevin goes all the way outside the factory. It turns out that there was already Dr. Ellie Staple who successfully intervened with the help of technology. The two were then taken to a mental hospital to be treated and studied under the supervision of Dr.

Ellie, who is used to dealing with people with unusual conditions. Dr. Ellie already understood David and Kevin's characteristics, as well as their weaknesses. David, who is afraid of water, is locked up in a room filled with water pipes. Kevin, on the other hand, is locked up in a room with a light that can shock him and cause his personality to be disturbed. Kevin and David claimed that they were people who were endowed with superpowers. Dr. Ellie doesn't buy it and thinks that they have severe delusions. She then invites another patient, Elijah Price, a person who looks familiar to Kevin. All three were asked about superpowers and could not answer. Elijah's appearance between Kevin and David makes the situation even more complicated. Elijah, who believes that some humans have superpowers, tries to stir up trouble and expose the superpowers of his two friends. He manages to get David and Kevin to escape with two different scenarios. The two then confront each other with different goals.

The film's portrayal of dissociative identity disorder symptoms highlighted the primary issues with the researcher's motivation for this study. Knowing what symptoms are present makes it easy for the researcher to figure out that the movie's main character does, in fact, have dissociative identity disorder. What is interesting for researchers to analyze is the dissociative identity disorder portrayed by Kevin through his action and behaviour. Based on the aforementioned phenomena, the researcher is eager to examine the movie applying American Psychiatric Association (2013) theory to know what are the symptoms that are portrayed in the movie and whether Kevin, in fact, have those symptoms to be categorized as DID sufferer.

Despite the growing number of studies discussing dissociative identity disorder in psychology and literature, limited research specifically examines how DID is represented in contemporary films using established clinical diagnostic standards. Previous studies often focus on trauma in literary texts or general mental illness portrayals without closely comparing fictional characters' behaviors to official psychiatric criteria. This creates a research gap in understanding whether popular films portray DID accurately or reinforce misconceptions. Therefore, the main research problem of this study is whether Kevin's depiction in the movie "Glass" aligns with the diagnostic criteria of dissociative identity disorder as stated in the "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders" by American Psychiatric Association (2013). The novelty of this study lies in its focused analysis of a modern film character by directly applying DSM-based criteria, offering a more structured and clinical perspective on film representation while contributing to discussions on mental health portrayal in popular media.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Previous Related Study**

Previous studies contribute useful perspectives on dissociative identity disorder in films, but they also reveal clear differences in focus, method, and depth when

compared to the current research. Hidayat & Rozelin (2019) examined Kevin's character in "Split" using Nevid's DID theory, emphasizing the types of DID, its causes, and possible ways to resolve the disorder. Their study mainly interprets Kevin's condition through a psychological lens without systematically testing the character's behavior against formal diagnostic standards. In addition, their analysis is limited to "Split", where Kevin's disorder is still developing and not fully explored in its later consequences. The present research addresses this limitation by analyzing "Glass", which presents Kevin in a more advanced and extreme state, and by applying the DSM-5 criteria to assess whether his behaviors truly meet clinical definitions.

The study conducted by Aliya, Mukhlisa, & Firdiansyah (2020) focuses on the film "Identity" and identifies the number of personalities and types of DID experienced by the character Malcolm. While this research successfully confirms the existence of DID within the narrative, it largely relies on character description and plot development rather than diagnostic evaluation. The study does not clearly link each personality shift to specific psychiatric criteria, which limits its clinical relevance. In contrast, the current research emphasizes accuracy by directly matching Kevin's actions, emotional responses, and memory disruptions to each criterion stated by American Psychiatric Association (2013). This approach allows the analysis to move beyond storytelling and toward a more academically grounded psychological assessment.

Priyoto & Aulia (2019) analyze Eve's dissociative identity disorder by exploring its causes, the characteristics of each identity, and the psychological effects of the disorder. Their research offers a deep discussion of internal conflicts and trauma but focuses more on background factors than on diagnostic validation. Unlike their work, the present study prioritizes whether the portrayed symptoms align with official diagnostic requirements rather than only explaining why the disorder exists. By combining film analysis with standardized psychiatric criteria and examining a sequel film rarely discussed in earlier studies, this research fills a gap left by previous works and offers a more precise evaluation of DID representation in literary works.

### **Dissociative Identity Disorder**

Trauma can happen anytime. When someone has a trauma, the brain automatically protects itself (Sutrisno & Meilina, 2020). Of course, we as humans want good things to happen to us. But when we have a trauma, our brain tries to eliminate the memory of the event. Fitri Adhiyantami & Syah (2022) states that one form of self-protection against danger is to create another personality within oneself. In psychology, this is called dissociative identity disorder (DID).

In fact, dissociative identity disorder can happen to anyone at anytime. Dissociative identity disorder does not just go away (Rahman et al., 2020). Because they are unable to regulate the urges in their inner world, people with personality disorders

may also unintentionally damage their relationships with others and their surroundings (Zaman, 2020). People with DID need the help of a psychiatrist to cure their mental illness (Aprillia et al., 2020). According to Philip Wang (2018), issues with memories, personality, emotions, perception, conduct, and sense of self are present in dissociative identity disorder. Of course, people with dissociative identity disorder also show symptoms that are characteristic of dissociative identity disorder. In the book "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders" written by American Psychiatric Association (2013) explains that there are 7 symptoms of someone having dissociative identity disorder, namely possesses multiple unique identities or states of personality, the alteration of one's sense of self, feeling of agency, behaviour, awareness, perception, memory, and cognition, frequent blanks in the sufferer's recollections of people, places, and events from both their recent and distant past, experiencing signs of depersonalization, considerable tension or issues in the sufferer's relationships, career, or other important aspects of life, a twisted and surreal impression of the persons and objects around the sufferer, and incapacity to manage stress, whether it be professional or emotional.

### **Symptoms of Dissociative Identity Disorder**

The symptoms of dissociative identity disorder are not only visible through the presence of more than one identity, but also through deep disruptions in a person's psychological functioning. Individuals with DID experience two or more distinct identity states, each of which has its own way of perceiving, thinking, and relating to the world (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). These identity states may take control of the person's behavior at different times, causing noticeable changes in speech, attitudes, or actions. As a result, the individual often feels a lack of continuity in their sense of self and may struggle to recognize their own behavior when another identity is dominant.

Another core symptom described is dissociative amnesia, which appears as frequent gaps in memory that cannot be explained by ordinary forgetfulness. People with DID may be unable to recall important personal information, everyday events, or even significant life experiences from both the recent and distant past (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). These memory lapses often create confusion and distress, as the individual may find evidence of actions they do not remember performing. This condition is closely related to alterations in consciousness and awareness, where individuals may feel detached from their thoughts, emotions, or surroundings.

American Psychiatric Association also explains that individuals with DID commonly experience depersonalization and derealization. Depersonalization refers to a sense of being detached from oneself, as if observing one's own thoughts or body from the outside (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). Derealization, on the other hand, involves perceiving the external world as unreal, distorted, or dreamlike. These experiences can make daily life feel unstable and unreal, further

intensifying emotional distress. Along with these symptoms, people with DID often have difficulty regulating emotions and managing stress, especially in social or professional settings.

These symptoms significantly interfere with major areas of life, including relationships, work, and overall functioning. The inability to control identity shifts, memory disruptions, and emotional responses often leads to conflict with others and difficulties maintaining consistent roles in daily life. Therefore, as emphasized by the American Psychiatric Association, dissociative identity disorder is a complex mental condition that affects not only memory and identity but also emotional stability, perception of reality, and the individual's ability to cope with stress.

## **METHOD**

### **Design and Samples**

In this study, the researcher applied a descriptive qualitative method. This method was chosen because it allows for a detailed description and understanding of Kevin's behaviors, thoughts, and feelings in the movie. Since the research focuses on the symptoms of dissociative identity disorder, this method is suitable for analyzing the film's dialogues, scripts, and actors' body language. This aligns with Sukmadinata (2011), who explains that descriptive qualitative research produces data in the form of observable words, sentences, or pictures. Scenes and dialogues were selected based on their clear depiction of DID symptoms, such as identity shifts, memory gaps, and depersonalization. Relevant moments were highlighted and transcribed, considering context, emotional intensity, and interactions with other characters. The method also allows the researcher to systematically compare Kevin's actions with the diagnostic criteria in the "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders" by American Psychiatric Association (2013), providing an in-depth interpretation of how the film portrays DID.

### **Instruments and Procedures**

This study used American Psychiatric Association (2013)'s theory as a reference to analyze the dissociative identity disorder symptoms shown by Kevin in the movie "Glass". Data were collected by watching the film several times to gain a clear understanding of Kevin's behaviors, actions, and shifts between personalities. To assist in data collection, the researcher applied a note-taking method, identifying and recording dialogues, scenes, and body language that demonstrated DID symptoms. These selected parts were then organized as raw data and categorized according to the seven diagnostic criteria of dissociative identity disorder for further analysis.

## Data Analysis

The analysis in this study was conducted systematically in several steps. First, the researcher carefully watched the movie “Glass” multiple times and identified scenes, dialogues, and body language that potentially reflected symptoms of dissociative identity disorder (DID). Second, the researcher selected specific quotations from these scenes that clearly showed Kevin’s actions, behaviors, or shifts between personalities. Third, each quotation was analyzed in detail to interpret the meaning behind Kevin’s behavior, taking into account the context of the scene and the personality displayed. Fourth, the researcher compared and connected these observations to the seven diagnostic criteria of DID outlined by American Psychiatric Association (2013). To minimize subjectivity, the researcher cross-checked interpretations with established definitions from the DSM-5, referred to multiple scenes for consistency, and focused only on observable behaviors and dialogues rather than personal assumptions. Finally, the researcher compiled the findings to demonstrate how Kevin’s experiences and behaviors correspond to each symptom, ensuring that the analysis was consistent, evidence-based, and aligned with established theoretical definitions.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

From all of the symptoms, researcher found that 6 out of 7 were fulfilled by Kevin, except considerable tension or issues in the sufferer's relationships, career, or other important aspects of life.

### **Possesses multiple unique identities or states of personality**

This symptom indicates that the sufferer or the other personality is aware and feels that there is another personality within them.

#### **Data 1**

*After forcing the two women into the car, Kevin closed the door breathlessly and turned to look at Elijah.*

*Kevin (as Dennis): “How many people are gonna die today? Huh? I don’t wanna do this. I don’t care what Patricia says. I’m not-”*

*He was straining.*

*Kevin (as Dennis): “Hedwig’s taking the light.”*

*Kevin (as Hedwig): “Hey, what’s up?”*

*Kevin (as Patricia): Don’t worry. We don’t need him anymore. There are still ten of us.”*

This scene occurred at minute 01.32.47 until 01.33.09. The dialogue in this scene clearly shows Kevin’s awareness of the presence of multiple personalities within himself. After forcing the two women into the car, Kevin turns to Elijah and begins speaking as Dennis, whose tense tone and panicked reaction reflect his controlling and anxious nature. Dennis openly expresses resistance to the situation and

explicitly mentions another identity by saying that Hedwig is “taking the light,” which indicates a conscious awareness of an internal shift in control. This moment demonstrates that the personalities are not acting independently without knowledge of one another but instead recognize when another identity is about to emerge.

The awareness becomes more evident when Hedwig takes over. His childlike manner of speaking contrasts sharply with Dennis’s tone, reinforcing the clear distinction between identities. The immediate transition to Patricia further strengthens this finding. Patricia’s calm and soft-spoken delivery differ from both Dennis and Hedwig, showing how each personality has a distinct behavioral pattern. When Patricia states, “There are still ten of us,” it directly confirms internal acknowledgment of multiple identities coexisting within Kevin.

### **The alteration of one's sense of self, feeling of agency, behavior, awareness, perception, memory, and cognition**

These symptoms include differences in self-identification, attitudes, memory, and thinking.

#### **Data 2**

*Kevin came over to the kidnap victim wearing long sleeves and a skirt. He showed his smile.*

*Kevin (as Patricia): “Look at u all. My name is Patricia. Now, who’d like a PB and J sandwich? You do.”*

*He giggled*

In the scene that occurred at minute 01.03, Kevin showed himself as Patricia. In this scene, Kevin appears as the personality named Patricia, which clearly shows a shift in self-identification and attitude. Kevin approaches the kidnap victim wearing long sleeves and a skirt, clothing that represents Patricia’s identity as a woman and visually distinguishes her from Kevin’s other personalities. He introduces himself directly as “Patricia,” indicating a complete change in how he identifies himself at that moment. This verbal and physical presentation shows that the personality in control fully assumes its own identity rather than merely imitating another role.

Patricia’s manner of speaking and behavior further support this symptom. Her gentle tone, polite wording, and motherly gesture of offering a sandwich contrast strongly with the harsher or more aggressive behaviors shown by Kevin’s other personalities. The giggle that follows her dialogue reinforces a different emotional attitude and way of thinking, suggesting that Patricia perceives the situation in a calmer and more nurturing manner. This difference reflects how each identity has its own distinct cognitive and emotional patterns. Another example can be seen in another scene below.

### **Data 3**

*Kevin was skating happily. He wore a green jacket and skated over to the victim and laughed.*

*Kevin (as Hedwig): "Miss Patricia said that I'm not allowed to play with you guys, so don't even ask."*

This scene occurred at minute 08.16. In this scene, Kevin appears as the personality Hedwig, which further highlights the differences in identity, attitude, and way of thinking among his personalities. Kevin is shown wearing a green jacket while rollerblading and laughing happily, behaviors that strongly resemble those of a child. His energetic movements and playful manner contrast with the more controlled or serious personalities shown in other scenes, emphasizing Hedwig's childlike nature.

Hedwig's dialogue also reflects a child's mindset. By referring to "Miss Patricia" and repeating her instructions, Hedwig positions himself as someone who follows rules set by an authority figure, similar to how a child obeys an adult. His speech pattern, tone, and choice of words indicate limited maturity and a simpler way of thinking. This clearly distinguishes Hedwig from Kevin's other personalities in terms of cognitive and emotional characteristics.

### **Frequent blanks in the sufferer's recollections of people, places, and events from both their recent and distant past**

This symptom shows that there are different memories of people, places, and events in the sufferer, due to various other personalities who experience it instead of the sufferer himself.

### **Data 4**

*After a fierce fight with The Oversees, Kevin was illuminated by some kind of light that made his personality change. He was brought to his knees.*

*Kevin (as Barry): "Don't! Don't! Don't shoot! We can work through this! Just put the guns away! What's happening? I didn't do anything! My name is Barry! All right? We have to get Kevin to stay in light. Don't shoot us."*

In the minute of 18.24 until 19.00, this scene demonstrates a clear disruption in memory caused by the shift between Kevin's personalities. After an intense confrontation between The Beast and The Oversees, the police lights trigger another personality to take control, namely Barry. When Barry emerges, he repeatedly states that he does not understand what is happening and insists that he did not do anything. His panic and confusion suggest that he has no memory of the violent events that occurred moments earlier.

Barry's reaction indicates that the actions carried out by The Beast exist outside of his awareness. Although the physical body remains the same, Barry does not share the same memories as the personality that was previously in control. This separation

of memory highlights one of the key symptoms of dissociative identity disorder, where certain identities are unable to recall events experienced by other identities. According to American Psychiatric Association (2013), this type of dissociative amnesia is a defining characteristic of DID.

### **Experiencing signs of depersonalization**

This symptom indicates that the sufferer or the other personality feels like watching his or her body with the other personality.

#### **Data 5**

*As he was about to walk to the prison with the police, Kevin was silent as he took in his surroundings.*

*Police: "Keep moving! Keep moving!"*

*When the police tried to grab Kevin's arm, he dodged.*

*Kevin: "Please, don't! Don't!"*

*He evaded the police's grasp.*

*Kevin (as Hedwig): "We're cool! We're cool! Totally cool. All right? He doesn't like to be touched. I can walk. I'll just walk."*

In the scene that takes place at minute 20.12 until 20.29, Kevin's behavior reflects a dissociative experience where multiple personalities are aware of the body and its actions at the same time. As Kevin walks with the police, he appears silent and disoriented, suggesting that the personality in control is unfamiliar with the situation and surroundings. When the police attempt to restrain him, he reacts with fear and resistance, indicating discomfort and lack of control over the situation.

Shortly after, another personality, Hedwig, takes over and explains that "he doesn't like to be touched." This statement shows that Hedwig is aware of the reaction of the previous personality and is able to comment on it from a distance. Hedwig's explanation implies that he witnessed the incident even though he was not the personality initially controlling Kevin's body. According to American Psychiatric Association (2013), this type of experience reflects depersonalization, where an individual or alternate identity feels detached from the body or perceives actions as if watching from the outside. Another example can be seen in another scene below.

#### **Data 6**

*Kevin: "They're all so scared. But I told them that I'm gonna hold the light now."*

The above scene occurred at minute 01.50.26 until 01.50.32. This scene further illustrates the dissociative experience of observing other personalities from within the same body. After being shot by the police, Kevin is shown lying on a makeshift bed, physically weak and emotionally vulnerable. At this moment, Kevin's original identity takes control of his consciousness. His statement, "They're all so scared,"

clearly indicates that he is aware of the emotional states of the other personalities inside him.

Kevin's awareness suggests that he is able to observe the presence and reactions of the other identities without fully merging with them. By saying that he is "holding the light now," Kevin implies that he has temporarily regained control while still witnessing the fear and responses of the other personalities. According to the American Psychiatric Association (2013), this reflects a dissociative condition in which the individual experiences a sense of separation between consciousness and identity, allowing one identity to observe others internally.

### **A twisted and surreal impression of the persons and objects around the sufferer**

This symptom indicates that the sufferer misinterprets things that happen around them.

#### **Data 7**

*Casey was reading a comic book that he had just bought from the bookstore. at one point in the comic, it was described that the character in the comic book could climb walls and bend iron cells. Then Casey remembered Kevin, who was The Beast at the time, who could also climb walls and bend cells.*

This scene occurred at minute 01.00.14 until 01.00.52. In this scene, Casey is shown reading a comic book that describes a character with superhuman abilities, such as climbing walls and bending iron bars. As she reads, she recalls Kevin in his identity as The Beast, who displays similar abilities. This connection suggests that the events in the comic influence how Kevin's condition is understood and experienced within the narrative.

Based on American Psychiatric Association (2013) criteria, this scene can be interpreted as a form of misinterpretation of reality linked to dissociative identity disorder. The extraordinary abilities shown by The Beast mirror fictional elements from the comic, indicating that Kevin's mind absorbs external stimuli and transforms them into part of his internal psychological system. Rather than recognizing the comic as fiction, Kevin's dissociative process appears to use it as a framework to shape one of his identities.

### **Incapacity to manage stress, whether it be professional or emotional**

This symptom includes the inability to regulate stress, the sufferer becomes more irritable when hearing, seeing, or experiencing something.

#### **Data 8**

*Joseph: "He took the train my dad was on. The one that everyone died except my dad. That's the key to who you are. Mr. Glass killed Kevin's dad."*

*Kevin was grunting and growling. He jumped down from the top of the car and looked at Mr. Glass who was sitting on a wheelchair sharply.”*

This scene occurred at minute 01.40.17 to 01.40.49. In this scene, Joseph reveals the truth about Kevin’s past, specifically that Mr. Glass was responsible for the train incident that killed Kevin’s father. At this moment, Kevin is under the control of The Beast personality. The sudden disclosure acts as a strong emotional trigger. Kevin’s immediate reaction is shown through physical responses such as grunting, growling, and abruptly jumping down from the car, which signal a loss of emotional control.

The Beast’s sharp and aggressive gaze toward Mr. Glass further demonstrates heightened irritability and emotional dysregulation. The shift in focus from The Overseer to Mr. Glass indicates that the information Joseph provides overwhelms Kevin’s ability to process stress calmly. According to American Psychiatric Association (2013), individuals with dissociative identity disorder often struggle to manage intense emotions, especially when confronted with reminders of trauma.

These findings indicate that the portrayal of dissociative identity disorder in “Glass” aligns with most of the diagnostic criteria proposed by American Psychiatric Association (2013). Based on the results, Kevin fulfills six out of seven criteria, indicating that the film presents a relatively detailed depiction of dissociative identity disorder. The findings suggest that Glass does not merely portray DID as the existence of multiple personalities, but also highlights deeper psychological disruptions such as memory fragmentation, emotional dysregulation, and internal awareness among identities.

One of the most significant findings of this study is the clear interaction and awareness among Kevin’s multiple personalities. Several identities are shown recognizing the presence of others and acknowledging shifts in control by referring to the concept of “holding the light.” This internal communication suggests that the identities are not entirely separate but function within a shared psychological system. This aspect is not discussed extensively in previous studies such as in Hidayat & Rozelin (2019)’s research, which focused more on identifying the types and causes of dissociative identity disorder in “Split”. By analyzing “Glass”, which presents Kevin at a later stage of his condition, this study reveals a more complex portrayal in which internal awareness becomes increasingly visible.

Another important aspect highlighted in this research is the alteration of sense of self and behavior across Kevin’s personalities. Each identity demonstrates distinct emotional responses, speech patterns, and social behaviors. This finding supports the explanation provided by American Psychiatric Association (2013) that each identity possesses its own way of perceiving and interacting with the world. Compared to previous studies that focused mainly on traumatic background or personality categorization, this research emphasizes observable behavioral

differences, making the depiction of dissociation more concrete and accessible for analysis.

The results also show frequent dissociative amnesia, which is a core symptom of dissociative identity disorder. Kevin's personalities often display confusion or deny involvement in violent actions carried out by other identities. This finding is consistent with the study conducted by Aliya et al. (2020), which also identified memory fragmentation in a film character with DID. However, the present study goes further by illustrating how memory gaps are closely connected to sudden personality shifts triggered by stressful situations rather than occurring randomly.

Depersonalization is another key symptom emphasized in this research. Several scenes depict one identity observing or commenting on the actions of another identity, suggesting a sense of detachment from one's own body and behavior. This internal observation aligns with the diagnostic explanation of depersonalization provided by American Psychiatric Association (2013). The portrayal of depersonalization in "Glass" strengthens the argument that dissociative identity disorder involves not only switching identities but also complex internal psychological experiences.

The distorted perception of reality shown through the personality of The Beast further contributes to the discussion of cinematic portrayals of dissociative identity disorder. The Beast's belief in superhuman strength reflects an exaggerated interpretation of reality that goes beyond clinical descriptions of DID. While this portrayal may symbolize a protector identity formed in response to trauma, it also highlights the tendency of films to dramatize mental disorders for narrative effect. This finding supports the argument that cinematic representations should be interpreted critically, especially when fictional elements are introduced.

Emotional stress plays a crucial role in triggering identity shifts throughout the film. Situations involving police intervention, confinement, and revelations about Kevin's traumatic past often provoke intense emotional reactions and changes in personality. This supports psychological theories that dissociation functions as a coping mechanism when individuals are exposed to overwhelming stress. Unlike previous studies that treat trauma mainly as a background cause, this research shows that stress continues to influence Kevin's psychological state throughout the narrative.

Despite its contributions, this study has several limitations. First, the analysis is based on a fictional film, which may exaggerate symptoms to enhance dramatic impact. Second, the interpretation of scenes relies on the researcher's perspective, which may introduce subjectivity. Third, the focus on a single movie limits the generalization of findings to other representations of dissociative identity disorder.

Nevertheless, this research has important implications. Academically, it demonstrates that DSM-based diagnostic criteria can be effectively applied to film

analysis to evaluate the accuracy of mental disorder portrayals. Practically, “Glass” can be used as a visual reference in discussions about dissociative identity disorder, as long as viewers understand the distinction between cinematic representation and clinical reality. Future studies could analyze multiple films or include clinical perspectives to provide a broader understanding of how dissociative identity disorder is represented in popular media.

## CONCLUSION

This research shows that Kevin’s character in “Glass” provides a compelling depiction of dissociative identity disorder, closely aligning with established psychiatric criteria. The film illustrates how dissociation can function as a response to trauma, highlighting the complexity of identity fragmentation and internal awareness among personalities. These findings suggest that movies can serve as valuable tools for understanding psychological conditions, offering a visual and relatable way to explore mental health concepts. While the narrative does not fully address all aspects of daily functioning, the portrayal of dissociation, memory gaps, and stress responses provides meaningful insight into DID and its psychological mechanisms.

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