

UNDERSTANDING DISORGANIZED SCHIZOPHRENIA THROUGH THE  
NARRATOR'S DESCRIPTION OF HIS MENTAL ILLNESS IN EDGAR ALLAN POE'S  
*THE TELL TALE HEART*

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**Abstract**

The male main character presented as the narrator in Poe's *The Tell Tale Heart* is the interesting one described by Edgar Allan Poe. He is described as the character who suffers from the mental illness. He feels really anxious as he sees the old man's eyes so that the feeling drives him to murder and mutilate the old man. How are the symptoms and type of mental illness experienced by the narrator described by the short story? and how do the psychological problems give impacts to his life? are the two questions formulated in the study to understand the mental illness from which the male main character suffers. Here, literature can be discussed based on the psychological perspective. Hence, it needs literature and psychology and psychological criticism. Furthermore, to discuss further about what happens with the narrator's psychology, it needs the psychological theory focusing to schizophrenia. Qualitative research is established to analyze the narrator's utterances as the data. It is described that the narrator experiences anxious, delusion, and auditory hallucination. The two symptoms prove that he suffers from disorganized schizophrenia. This syndrome is marked by the narrator who experiences disorganized speech and behaviour. This syndrome makes the narrator desires to kill, kills, mutilates, deposits the old man without knowing the reason, and admits the deed.

Keywords: delusion, auditory hallucination, disorganized schizophrenia

**INTRODUCTION**

A short story is one of the genre of literary works. It has the same feature with novel, but it has fewer words or pages than novel (Onyekalwuchukwu, 2010:34). Eventhough, it is a shorter work than novel, but it may present the story that may be as interesting as the novel. An author of a short story makes his or her work as real as possible through the characters, the plot, and many others intrinsic elements he or she creates.

One of the popular authors of short story is Edgar Allan Poe. He was an influential figure in the world literature. He was also the principal forerunner of the "art for art's sake" movement in nineteenth-century European literature ([www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/edgar-allan-poe](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/edgar-allan-poe)). His ability to organize the imagination creatively makes his works as real as possible. For example, due to his imagination, he can describe the character who experiences

particular disease through the story he creates creatively so that the readers can understand that the character suffers from the disease. Hence, he is chosen as the author of the literary work analyzed in the study.

One of his literary works is *The Tell Tale Heart*. He narrates the story as real as possible through the characters, the plot, and the other intrinsic elements created in the short story that make the story is interesting. The story opens with the first-person narrator as the male main character who involves the readers to ensure themselves that he is not as the madman. He narrates the story how his idea guides him to kill the oldman having vulture eyes since the idea makes him scare and anxious. He also hears all the things that make him afraid and nervous that supports him to kill the old man. Eventhough, he loves the old man, but he cannot avoid to kill the old man due to the influence of the idea and the hearing acute that make him experiences very dreadful nerveous.

The elaboration of the narrator shows that he experiences psychological problems. The particular source mentions that the characteristic of Poe's writings is containing a pschological intensity especially his best-known works having the tales of horror, such as *The Black Cat*, *The Cask of Amontillado*, and *The Tell-Tale Heart*. The three works are told by a first-person narrator and through this voice, Poe elaborates a character's psyche ([www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/edgar-allan-poe](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/edgar-allan-poe)) as real as possible. Hence, it is interesting to know further how the psychological problem experienced by the narrator in the one of Poe's best-known works, *The Tell-Tale Heart*.

The psychological story narrated in *The Tell-Tale Heart* are also stated by two sources, [www.litmed.med.nyu.edu/Annotation?action](http://www.litmed.med.nyu.edu/Annotation?action) and [www.answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid](http://www.answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid). Furthermore, the second source appreciates that the narrator in Edagar Allan Poe's *The Tell Tale Heart* suffers from a particular mental illness of which he is fully aware. Based on the symptoms he describes ranging from hallucinations and anxiety attacks,

to the voices in his mind, this madman could be classified by psychologists as paranoid schizophrenic. To get further elaboration how the psychological problems are experienced by the narrator, the study bases on two approaches, namely literature and psychology and the psychology theory elaborating schizophrenia.

To have further elaboration about the psychological problems experienced by the male main character, there are two questions formulated in the study. How are the symptoms and type of mental illness experienced by the narrator described by the short story? and how do the psychological problems give impacts to his life? The first question is to describe the symptoms and type of the mental illness the narrator has. The second question is describe how the psychological problems give impact to his life. The study hopefully will help the readers understand about the disorganized schizophrenia, particularly its symptoms, type, and impacts as elaborated in the novel theoretically. They will also help the next writers how to analyze literary works based on literature and psychology.

## **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURES**

### *Literature and Psychology*

To answer the questions formulated in the study that focus on the psychological problems in the particular literary work, it needs the particular theory named literature and psychology. As the theory applies, it analyzes the psychological types and laws in literary works (Wellek and Warren, 81). The psychological types and laws in literary works are analyzed by formulating questions of psychology towards literary works (Wellek and Warren, 1956: 91).

### *Psychological Criticism*

The next psychological criticism also supports literature and psychology to explore literary problems and behaviour as the study focuses to the behaviour of the main character in the literary work. When there is an analysis of the writing or reading or content of literary

texts using a formal psychology, the analysis is known as a psychological criticism. The criticism observes the psychology of the humans who make or experience or are portrayed in literature (Holland, 2007: 29-30).

### Schizophrenia

To analyze psychological problems experienced by the main character, schizophrenia is required by the study. Schizophrenia is a serious mental illness characterized by positive, negative, and cognitive symptoms that affect almost all aspects of mental activity, including perception, attention, memory, and emotion (Lieberman, et al, 2006: 187). It is a brain disorder that affects the way a person acts, thinks, and sees the world. Schizophrenics may see or hear things that don't exist, speak in strange or confusing ways, believe that others are trying to harm them, or feel like they're being constantly watched. Furthermore, they act out in confusion and fear (Melinda Smith, M.A., and Jeanne Segal, Ph.D. Last updated: February 2014 in [www.helpguide.org/mental/schizophrenia\\_symptoms/htm](http://www.helpguide.org/mental/schizophrenia_symptoms/htm)).

### Symptoms

Schizophrenics experience various symptoms, namely anxiety, delusion, and hallucination. Firstly, schizophrenics experience anxiety as the symptom that is also experienced by the other mental disorders. It is a feeling of uneasiness, apprehension, or dread. From a psychoanalytic point of view, anxiety is a sign that the ego has not successfully been able to keep unpleasant or threatening thoughts or feelings entirely out of awareness, so that, even though the actual content of the threatening thought or feeling may be unconscious, the unpleasant effects are still experienced as anxiety (Noll, 2007: 30).

Secondly, they experience delusion that is historically according to German psychiatrist Karl Jaspers as the basic characteristic of madness. Delusional perception (a normal perception followed by delusional and highly personalized interpretation). Ideas of passivity (feelings, impulses, or motor activity are experienced, influenced, or controlled by

external agents) (Lieberman, et al, 188). Furthermore, it is a false personal belief based on incorrect inference about external reality and is firmly maintained despite the consensually accepted beliefs of most others. Individuals with delusions will generally hold on to their beliefs even when confronted with strong evidence that contradicts their beliefs. In this sense, delusions are said to be “fixed,” as if unchangeably cemented into the mind. Delusions are sometimes referred to as “ideational symptoms,” because they involve a disturbance in ideas or cognition (Noll, 2007: 120).

Thirdly, they experience hallucination. It is an event that is experienced as a sensory perception (e.g., the sound of a voice, the sight of someone or something) but, in fact, is not real. A hallucination is experienced as real, and it may be perceived as originating from outside a person’s body (as with the usual sensory experiences of sight and sound), or it may be felt to come from within a person’s own body. For example, a person may report “hearing voices,” but the voices may be experienced as coming from within the head rather than from outside it (Noll, 2007: 205). Additionally, three special forms of auditory hallucinations can be experienced by schizophrenics are (hearing one’s thoughts spoken aloud; hearing voices referring to himself/herself, made in the third person; auditory hallucinations in the form of a running commentary on one’s activity); Thought withdrawal, insertion, and interruption; Thought broadcasting (one’s thoughts are broadcast to others) (Lieberman, et al, 2006: 188).

## Types

There are three types of Schizophrenia, namely disorganized, catatonia, and paranoid Schizophrenia. Each shows different features and symptoms. Firstly, disorganized is also known as hebephrenic type that was first described by Ewald Hecker in 1871. This syndrome is marked by incoherence (disorganized speech), disorganized behavior, an obvious loosening of associations, and flat affect. Sometimes there can be silliness to it, including giggling, strange mannerisms, frequent somatic (hypochondriacal) complaints, and unusual facial

grimaces or other odd behavior. There may be auditory hallucinations of voices or delusions, but the delusions are unsystematic and grossly illogical. The disorganized type, however, is “classical” schizophrenia. (Noll, 2007: 134).

Secondly, catatonia is also called as catatonic. It is a syndrome of abnormal movement. It can be associated with mood disorders (such as major depression) or with disorders of cognitive deterioration or deficit (schizophrenia). Catatonic behavior can take many forms (see the entries below), from stupor (the classic picture of catatonia that we all have), to excitement, catalepsy (catatonic waxy flexibility), negativism, mutism, apparently voluntary assumption of inappropriate or bizarre posturing, stereotyped movements, off mannerisms, prominent grimacing, echolalia, or echopraxia (Noll, 2007: 89).

Thirdly, paranoid type is defined as preoccupation with one or more delusions or frequent auditory hallucinations and the absence of disorganized speech, disorganized or catatonic behavior, or flat or inappropriate affect. The classic auditory hallucinations are of voices. The delusions are “bizarre” and do not seem to be based on a faulty logical premise, as is the case in delusional disorder. Delusions of persecution (“The pope is turning my family against me and stealing my money”) and grandiosity (“I am Christ”) are common (Noll, 2007: 303-304).

## **METHODOLOGY**

### Source of Data, Data, and Research Type

Source of data for the study is the short story entitled *The Tell Tale Heart* by Edgar Allan Poe. Data for the study are the narator’s utterances and narration that answer the two questions in the study. The study is the qualitative research. The research that uses data that do not indicate ordinal values and involves texts is the qualitative research (Nkwi, Nyamongo, and Ryan (2001, p. 1) in A Collection of Qualitative RM.pdf (p.3).

### Data Collection and Data Analysis

Data for the study is collected through three steps. Reading the source of data, selecting the data that are responsible to answer the questions of the study, and coding the data based on the questions. For coding the data, the study uses three codes, namely S, T, and I. S for symptoms and T for type as the first two research questions, and I for impacts as the second research question. The collected data are then analyzed based on the inductive thematic analysis. The method is appropriate for the study that is the social science. The method is applied by conducting four processes, namely reading the textual data, identifying the themes in the data, coding those themes, and then interpreting the structure and content of the themes (Guest, MacQueen, & Namey, 2012 in A Collection of Qualitative RM.pdf, p.13). The process of coding the themes in the study, it is based on the two symptoms and the type of the mental illness experienced by the narrator, and the impacts for him. The codes used are SA for symptom of anxiety, SD for symptom of delusions, SAH for symptom of auditory hallucinations, TD for type of disorganized schizophrenia, IK for impact of killing, and IM for impact of mutilating. Having coded the themes, the data are analyzed by interpreting the data based on the theory worked in the study.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

### **The Narrator as a Schizophrenic**

Before discussing the symptoms and the type of schizophrenia the male main character experiences and the impacts of his psychological disorder for his life, the elaboration of the schizophrenic as mentioning by Smith and Segal is presented to have early information about schizophrenic. Smith and Segal ([www.helpguide.org/mental/schizophrenia\\_symptoms/htm](http://www.helpguide.org/mental/schizophrenia_symptoms/htm)) describe that schizophrenic is as the people who may hear things that don't exist. In the story, it is described that the narrator hears things from the earth, heaven, and hell. He hears the sound in the earth though no one talks to him. He hears the sound from heaven and hell though the two are the visible worlds. I heard all things in the heaven and in

the earth. I heard many things in hell ([www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html](http://www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html), line 3-4). The argumentation supported by the quotation shows that the narrator hears things that do not exist.

Smith and Segal also describe that schizophrenics speak in strange or confusing ways. The narrator is described as the one who ensures the readers how wisely he does the process. You should have seen how wisely I proceeded ([www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html](http://www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html), line 13). The process here means the process to kill the old man. He also shows how he kills the old man.

In an instant I dragged him to the floor, and pulled the heavy bed over him. I then smiled gaily, to find the deed so far done.... The old man was dead... Yes, he was stone, stone dead ([www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html](http://www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html), line 80-85)

He has killed the oldman rudely by dragging him to the floor even pulling the bed over him till he is died. However he ensures the readers that he does the process wisely. How can be his elaboration to kill the oldman ensures the readers that he does the process wisely. His elaboration killing the old man rudely strongly contrary with his statement that he does the process wisely. That is the point that make the readers come to the conclusion that he speaks in confusing way. The readers get confusing understanding his statement that he does the process wisely to refer to the process killing another human living even he does it rudely. Furthermore, after killing the old man he is very happy. His description about how happy he is after killing him opposite with his statement that he does the process wisely. Here, the opposition between his statement and his elaboration makes the readers confused.

In addition, Smith and Segal describe that schizophrenics believe that others are trying to harm them, or feel like they're being constantly watched. In the story, the narrator is afraid of watching the old man's eyes. The eyes look like the eye of a vulture that seems ready to eat the victim. That is why he feels not safe and scared as watching his eyes. Here, he believes that the eyes will harm him.



I think it was his eye! yes, it was this! He had the eye of a vulture --a pale blue eye, with a film over it. Whenever it fell upon me, my blood ran cold; and so by degrees -- very gradually --I made up my mind to take the life of the old man, and thus rid myself of the eye forever ([www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html](http://www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html), line 9-12).

Furthermore, Smith and Segal describe that schizophrenics act out in confusion and fear. The narrator is elaborated as the character who acts out in confusion as the police officers come to his house to investigate him whether he kills the old man. He speaks angrily as the police officers come to investigate his house and he swings and grates the chair upon the boards. How confused the narrator is as the police officers come to search the evidence that he is the one who is responsible towards the old man's died so he speaks in high tone and he swings the chair he sits and grates the chair upon the boards under which he hides the old man's corpse after killing and mutilating him. Moreover, how scared he is after killing, mutilating, and hiding the old man's corpse. Hence he cannot hide his fear when the police officers come to his house. Even, his horror is increasing as he hears the sound that haunts him. The sound that does not exist but he hears it and it disturbs him and sharpens his fear.

Oh God! what could I do? I foamed --I raved --I swore! I swung the chair upon which I had been sitting, and grated it upon the boards, but the noise arose over all and continually increased. It grew louder --louder --louder! And still the men chatted pleasantly, and smiled. Was it possible they heard not? Almighty God! --no, no! They heard! --they suspected! --they knew! --they were making a mockery of my horror! ([www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html](http://www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html), line 120-124).

### The Symptoms experienced by the Narrator

Having elaborated how the main male character meets the definition of schizophrenic based on Smith and Segel, the next description will present the symptoms and type of schizophrenia the male main character suffered from and the impact of the mental illness for his life as answering the questions formulated in the study. Schizophrenics experience

various symptoms, namely anxiety, delusion, and hallucination (Noll, 2007: 30). They may be belong to disorganized, catatonia, or paranoid schizophrenia.

Firstly, schizophrenic experiences anxiety. It is a feeling of dread. From a psychoanalytic point of view, anxiety is threatening thoughts or feelings entirely out of awareness (Noll, 2007: 30). It also happened to the narrator who is very nerveous through his statement as opening the short story. He tells to the readers that the feeling is happened for a long time ago and increases his awareness. The feeling does not destroy his awareness. Therefore, he objects when the readers blame him and consider him mad. He thinks that himself is not as a madman but very scared. He states that he is healthy man. Hence, he invites the readers to observe how healthily and calmly he does the process to kill the old man. The whole story mentioning by the narrator refers to the story how he does the process to kill the old man ([www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html](http://www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html), line 15)

TRUE! --nervous --very, very dreadfully nervous I had been and am; but why will you say that I am mad? The disease had sharpened my senses --not destroyed --not dulled them ... observe how healthily --how calmly I can tell you the whole story (SA).

Eventhough he states how healthily and calmly he kills the old man. However the died old man he kills shows that he experiences anxiety. He is very scared as watching the old man's eyes so he feels that the eyes makes him in harmful condition so that he dicides to kill the old man ([www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html](http://www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html), line 9-11). Here, he is entirely out of awareness.

The feeling of dread experienced by the narrator is not only stated by him as opening the story to ensure the readers how anxious he is, but also as he elaborates how he thinks the old man's eyes harms his life in the middle of the story as well. For seven nights he peeks the old man's bedroom until his eyes open. Then, as the old man opens his eyes, his vulture eye

which is dull blue with a hideous veil over it seems harms the narrator. Therefore the narrator plans to kill the old man ([www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html](http://www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html), line 62-67). Additionally as the narrator plans to kill the old man, he seems hearing the beating of the old man's heart, that makes his anxious is increasing.

It was the beating of the old man's heart. It increased my fury, as the beating of a drum stimulates the soldier into courage (SA2).

Secondly, schizophrenic experiences delusion. It is a false personal belief based on incorrect inference about external reality. Individuals with delusions will generally hold on to their beliefs even when confronted with strong evidence that contradicts their beliefs (Noll, 2007: 120). The false personal belief based on incorrect inference about external reality is experienced by the narrator. He is influenced by his belief that the old man as his neighbor who has eye of a vulture has haunted him. It is a false belief about the old man since actually the narrator loves the old man. Furthermore, the old man as the external reality actually never wrongs and insults the narrator. However, the narrator has incorrect inference that the old man harms the narrator.

It is impossible to say how first the idea entered my brain; but once conceived, it haunted me day and night. Object there was none. Passion there was none. I loved the old man. He had never wronged me. He had never given me insult. For his gold I had no desire. I think it was his eye! yes, it was this! He had the eye of a vulture --a pale blue eye, with a film over it. Whenever it fell upon me, my blood ran cold; and so by degrees --very gradually --I made up my mind to take the life of the old man, and thus rid myself of the eye forever (SD1).

The narrator holds the false belief that the old man due his vulture eye makes the narrator anxious. The idea that contradicts with the evidence just enters in the narrator's brain and make him scared day to day. The evidence the narrator states that he has no passion towards the old main. Unfortunately, the wrong idea influences him to rid the old man vulture's eye forever. The old man vulture's eye is a pale blue eye with a film over it that the

narrator thinks it harms the narrator. Actually, the narrator has ensured the readers that it is impossible to tell how he has the false idea but he cannot avoid his idea that the old man vulture's eye really scares him and makes him anxious. Here, the narrator holds his strong false belief that contradicts with the evidence.

The idea entering to the narrator's mind that the old man vulture's eye makes him not safe is told by the narrator to the readers to ensure them that the vulture eye is evil for the the narrator. Therefore, when the old man is sleeping the narrator does not think that his eye makes him scared and anxious. That's way the narrator wait for seven nights until the old man's eye opens so that the condition makes them easy to do the work killing the man.

And this I did for seven long nights --every night just at midnight --but I found the eye always closed; and so it was impossible to do the work; for it was not the old man who vexed me, but his Evil Eye (SD2).

Thirdly, schizophrenics experience hallucination. It is an event that is experienced as a sensory perception (e.g., the sound of a voice, the sight of someone or something) but, in fact, is not real (Noll, 2007: 205). It is also happened to the narrator. He hears many things in the heaven, the earth, and the hell. The experience of hearing acute from many thing from many places makes the narrator objects when he is considered as the madman. The objection is stated in the opening story.

Above all was the sense of hearing acute. I heard all things in the heaven and in the earth. I heard many things in hell. How, then, am I mad? Hearken! and observe how healthily --how calmly I can tell you the whole story (SH1).

What makes the narrator is sure that he is not madman is his previous explanation that is his sense of hearing acute. His sense of hearing acute here is elaborated further when the narrator hears the beating of the old man's heart as the narrator peeks the old man to whom the narrator has a disire to kill (SH2).

The narrator does not only elaborate how he hears the sound of the old man's heart, but he also elaborates how he hears that the sound grows louder that makes him anxious as well. I felt that I must scream or die! and now --again! --hark! louder! louder! louder! louder! (SH3). How the sound is increasing that makes him scream as the police officers come to his house to observe and investigate whether he is the one who kills the old man. Formerly, the officer does not commit that he is the responsible one. However, the narrator hears the sound of the old man's heart grows louder and louder that he cannot stand finally to commit the deed (SH4). Actually, there was no sound of the beating of the old man's heart since he has already been killed by the narrator. Here, the narrator experience hallucination that he hears something within the head rather than outside.

#### The Type

As has been elaborated previously that the narrator experiences anxiety, hallucination, and delusion. Additionally, he also experiences disorganized speech and disorganized behaviour. With disorganized speech, a person's thought process tends to be disorganized and therefore it can be difficult for the person to express his/her thoughts clearly to outsiders. He or she might easily and frequently slip off topic during a conversation. Schizophrenia can affect behavior. Like thoughts, behavior can sometimes be "disorganized." This just means that some behaviors don't really fit a situation ([www.tanyajpeterson.com/tag/disorganized-speech](http://www.tanyajpeterson.com/tag/disorganized-speech)).

How the narrator's thought process tends to be disorganized is elaborated when he asks to the readers whether he is mad or not as he does the process to kill the old man having vulture eye healthily and calmly (T1). He is sure that he is not mad since he argues that madmen know nothing. He knows how to treat the old man. Henceforth, he invites the readers to watch how he does the work to kill the old man wisely, cautiously, and gently (T2). His disorganized thought can not think that killing someone else is prohibited.

Moreover, what he has done to the old man is not criminal. It is because he thinks that he has treated well the old man as he does the process to kill the old man.

He also offers a question to the readers to have their opinion towards his treatment to kill the old man even though he states that he actually loves the old man (T3). His thought is not able to relate the feeling of love and the killing. Absolutely, the feeling of love makes someone not kill someone else. Nevertheless, his thought corrects his deed to kill the old man even though he loves the old man. Therefore, he objects when the readers judge him as the mad man by offering a question to the readers whether he is mad.

How the narrator's behaviour is disorganized is narrated when he has successfully killed the old man. After dragging the old man to the floor and pulling the heavy bed over him, then the narrator smiles happily since he knows that the old man as his target has died. In an instant I dragged him to the floor, and pulled the heavy bed over him. I then smiled gaily, to find the deed so far done (T4). As the one who experiences disorganized behaviour, the narrator smiles even though he has killed the old man. In addition, how rude the narrator is as he treats the old man until he is died, but the narrator's reaction is happy. Even, he does not feel guilty or sad as he knows that the old man is died.

The narrator who experiences disorganized speech, behaviour, delusion, and hallucination indicates that he is suffered from disorganized schizophrenia. This mental disorder can also be called as hebephrenic schizophrenia. It is belong to the classical type of schizophrenia (Noll, 2007: 134).

### The Impacts

The mental disorder the narrator suffers from creates five impacts for his life. The first is he wants to kill the old man (I1). As schizophrenic, he experiences delusion that influences him to have a desire to kill the old man due to his vulture eye ([www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html](http://www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html), line 11). The delusion controls him that

the old man's eye harms the narrator life so that for twelve nights the narrator observes the old man through his bed room ([www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html](http://www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html)line 28). The second is he kills the old man (I2). The anxiety and the delusion are integrated symptoms that give bad impact for his life, that is killing the old man. Not only the delusion that influences the narrator but also the anxiety the narrator has as well. He is very anxious to see the old man's eye that has vulture eye ([www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html](http://www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html), line 24). Henceforth, the narrator druggs the old man to the floor and covers him with heavy bed until he is died ([www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html](http://www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html), line 80). The third is the narrator mutilates the old man (I3). The schizophrenia the narrator has leads him to mutilate the old man after killing him ([www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html](http://www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html), line 88). The fourth is the narrator deposits the old man (I4). The narrator who is suffered from disorganized deposits the corpse of the old man ([www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html](http://www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html), line 89) after he observes that the old man has no pulsation. The fifth is the narrator admits the deed (I5). The hallucination the narrator suffers from makes him as if he hears the beating of the old man's heart that drives him to kill the old man ([www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html](http://www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html), line 77). The symptom also makes him finally he admits the deed. Then, he says to the police officers that he is the responsible one to kill the old man ([www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html](http://www.xroads.virginia.edu/~hyper/poe/telltale.html), line 128).

## **Conclusion**

It can be concluded that literature can portray humans' life and their problems. Edgar Allan Poe is the author of literary who can embody the psychological problems experienced by the male main character as the narrator through the story he creates in his short story, *The Tell Tale Heart*. The narrator believes that the old man who has vulture eyes is threatening to his life. The idea makes him very nervous. Hence, he has to rid his old man's life. He believes that he is not madman since he does the process of killing the old man cautiously

and wisely. Here, the narrator experiences a disturbance in ideas. In the other words, he faces delusions. He also experiences auditory hallucinations. He hears voices as coming from within his' own body that distracts him and make him fury and nervous. The anxiety drives him to kill and mutilate the old man. The sounds also make him admits the deed. The anxiety, delusions, and hallucinations are the symptoms that indicate the narrator is suffered from disorganized schizophrenia type. The psychological problems he experiences give impacts for his life, that is he disires to kill the old man, kills, mutilates, deposits the old man whom he loves due to his vulture eyes that are threatening his lif, and admit the deed. Having read and analyzed Edgar Allan Poe's *The Tell Tale Heart*, the psychology field can be explored. Especially, having elaborated the psychological problems experiences by the narrator, the symptoms, the type of disorganized schizophrenia and it's impacts to his life can be understood.

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