

PARENTS' CONFLICT TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CHILD AS REFLECTED ON STRINBERG'S PLAY "MISS JULIE"

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan pengaruh konflik orang tua terhadap perkembangan anak dalam Miss Julie. Miss Julie merupakan salah satu drama terbaik yang pernah dibuat oleh Strindberg yang menceritakan tentang seorang anak perempuan dari keluarga yang tidak harmonis bernama Julie. Dia berasal dari keluarga bangsawan namun sikap dan prilakunya tidak mencerminkan kebangsawannya. Hal ini disebabkan karena dia adalah korban dari konflik orangtuanya. Pengaruh ini dijelaskan dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif. Dan untuk mendapatkan datanya, peneliti menggunakan penelitian pustaka. Semua data tentang konflik orang tua Julie dan bagaimana konflik tersebut mempengaruhinya telah dijelaskan secara deskriptif. Julie tumbuh menjadi gadis liar tanpa sikap dan perilaku yang baik, dan dia mengakhiri hidupnya dengan bunuh diri.

Kata Kunci : Konflik Orang tua, Perkembangan anak

Introduction

Drama is one of literary works telling a story of human's experiences, observations, emotions and thoughts. It seems that literature and life cannot be separated. There is a double side and relationship between them. As stated by Hudson (1962;10) that literary work brings us into large, close and fresh relations with life. That kind of relation is also contained in August Strinberg's play entitled "Miss Julie"

This play tells about a child that comes from an unhappy family and her behaviours are much influenced by her parents. She grew without her parents' affection. Nowadays, this situation also happens in many families. There are so many parents that do not care about their children and forget about their role as parents of their children. They do not want to take the responsibility and if there is something wrong happens in their family they will blame each other and later it becomes a conflict between them. They do not realize that this situation influences their children development.

Recently, we are exposed to some criminal actions and juvenile delinquencies. Newspaper writes about students fights, rapes, murder, robbery and many other crimes. The crime executors did it without guilty feeling and moreover some of them confessed that they satisfied after doing that crime. From this situation we can trace back to get some possible causes why they did it. It is started from the family. A good and harmonious family will make everybody there become a good person. He gets full affection, attention, and moral values from his parents. It teaches him to decide whether something is good or not. While a bad family with busy parents can not give protection and warm affection to the whole family members. Sometimes conflict occurs in this family that can give bad impact to their children. Person who comes from this kind of family has high risk to any influences from outside since he or she has no filter to decide good or not. Moreover, some of this family finish in tragic ending

This play also tells a tragedy that the researcher wanted to explore. Moreover, the conflict of her parents destroys this family badly. Through this work Strinberg tries to tell us that parents have a great responsibility in teaching and educating their children and keep

the family in a happy situation. Avoid arguing and tense in front of children or find another place that far from children when the intense debate can change into conflict. Conflict can destroy everything in the family. It can make a wife become an enemy for a husband, and it can make a child have no future.

In *Miss Julie*, her mother teaches her bad things about men, and it makes the daughter hate men. Ironically, her daughter –named Julie- dies because of man refusing her love. Since Julie's parents have a bad communication between one another, it makes her grow as a wild lady. As an aristocrat lady she behaves like a girl from a lower class, she does whatever she wants to do, she does not concern about her aristocracy which is full of thousand rules.

Through this play Strindberg describes how heavy the responsibility of parents as portrayed in his life in reality. Strindberg fails to be a good father and it is proved by his broken marriage for three times. By writing this play, he encourages the people to be good parents for their children. August Strindberg is the first Swedish writer winning international fame and his work are performed in most part of the world, and *Miss Julie* is one of his famous dramas.

The main objective of this writing is to analyze the influence of parent's conflict toward the children development as reflected in Strindberg's play entitled *Miss Julie*. It is an essential problem because the circumstance of family is very influential toward the development of a child.

Review Related Literature

In order to develop this study, the researcher has collected some theories that have relationship with analysis. The researcher quoted some ideas of different experts concerning with parents' conflict, and the influence of parents' conflict toward children.

1. Parents' Conflict

Parents' conflict can be define as conflict between parents. Boll (1943:25) defined this terms as follows.

Opposing desires sometimes set up tensions that often are incompatible with a repressed, unsatisfied drive or need. Since man's intellect is not a psychic unity, conflict results as his respective ideas, feeling, and emotions complete for an outlet in the psyche.

Parents' conflict can be also said as inter-parental conflict or the conflict between a child's parents. Reynold et al (2014;1) defined it as the conflict appearing to have considerable impact on child outcomes. Conflict between parents can negatively influence their children even more when the children see it often and it can be worse when the conflict is about the children (Cummings Davies in Reynold et al, 2014). Based on the quotations above it can be concluded that parents' conflict is unresolved disagreement or high tension between father and mother that can influence their children socially and mentally.

2. The Influence of Parents' Conflict toward Children

In a family, parents have a very important role to establish a happy family and build a good generation. To say a child good or bad, it depends on the education given by his parents. In a child's eye, parents are his pattern how to behave since the first thing he sees is his parents. So if parents have good manners or behaviors, the child will imitate them so that he can behave well in his family and society. A child is like a blank piece of paper; whatever the parents write on it and the result will soon emerge.

In a household parents are the key to happiness, both of them should have a conformity in steering their home. Beside the conformity, the faithfulness is also an important aspect in building a harmonious family. If father or mother does not have the faithfulness, they will make their children suffer, because the children feel that their parents do not love them anymore. Love is needed in human life in the world. Love might be a quarantee to an eternal marriage. So, the trouble will occur in a home if one of the spouse shares the love to another man or woman.

In early stage of child development, parents or family is the first influential aspect since the family determines the child's future. To make the child have a good personality or behavior, parents should help him by avoiding anything which can disturb his development. Like in this play, julie's parents are not good parents. They do not care about their daughter. They do not give their love and attention that she needs for her development.

The parents are responsible to achive the existence of their child. It should begin when the child is formed and especially after he is born. As at that time the child begins to learn how to react to the stimulation he obtains. Some experts that make an experiment conclude that eventhough a baby who does not undersrtand anything deeply, he can realize the treatment which is full of love or not. It will determine the development of someone's emotion.

If the child gets love and attention he needs from his parents, he will become a good man because his emotion in his childhood runs normally and is well controlled. But if a child obtains bad experiences even he is a little child, he will grow as a man with uncontrolled emotion. A child's ability to regulate their emotions and behaviours develops primarilly in the family context (Mcintosh, 2013, pp 63-80). Moreover, he also stated that those children who stepped in most actively to intervene in parents' conflicts were the most symptomatic, with marked patterns of anxiety and depression.

The character and personality of a child are determined by his present and past experiences. If the child is exposed to conflict and uncomfortable experiences at home, he shows heightened aggression, impulsivity, anxiety, poor social skills and emotional problems (Block, Block & Gjerde, 1986; Cummings & Davies, 1994; Harrie & Ainslie, 1998; Mc Clokey & Stuewig 2001) in Mcintosh.

The child forms personality habbits through experiences (Gray, 1954 : 56). In julie's childhood she got bad experiences like the betrayal of her mother and her parents conflict. Since a baby was born he always under the influence of the people close to him, the first most important is his mother. She is the source of affection and love that a child never obtains from another woman in the world. She gives her love through drops of her milk, and protects her child from everything that makes her child painful. Beside the mother, family members like father, sisters, brothers, grandmother and grandfather who stay together in one house will influence the child. If most of them give bad treat to him, the child could have a problem in his personality.

Priyatna explains in his book entitled *bidang pengajaran : psikologi SPG/KPG/SGO* that there are four expects why family influences the child development (1987;65) :

- 1) It gives the first experience to the child
- 2) The influence accepted by a child determined by the number of family members\the family influence goes continually
- 3) The family situstuion close to him, effects a child's personality.

It is not suprising that a good and happy family, with high education, high moral standars, high desire and good personality will create a good man with full responsibility to

him self and his environment. Family is the first stone of child education before formal education. The experiences he obtains from parents become the foundation of child development, for the influences he get from the family are quantitatively bigger than from outsiders. So parents have to give good examples to their child.

Children are also upset by verbal hostility, such as shouting, threats, and raised voices. When parents are verbally aggressive toward one another, children may become scared, angry or sad, overtime, these reactions have been linked with psychological adjustment problems (Davies et al, 2002 in Reynold et a, 2014)

The most important thing is that the source of the whole problem comes from family, not from friends, films of others. All the latter influences only function as supporting factors of juvenile delinquency, but all of them can be prohibited by good education at home. In teaching a child, parents have to be firm in doing punishments to a disobedient child (sarwono, 1982 ; 7). Since the baby was born, parents should teach him how to behave as a good child through religious and moral educations. These education influence the development of the growth in his life. And later it is very useful in his society and intersource (hardiyanti, 1992)

Method of Research.

In analyzing strindberg's play the researcher applied qualitative descriptive analysis because it explained phenomena that occur naturally. In studying the influence of parents' conflict toward Miss Julie, the researcher explained the influence through words instead of numbers or statistical data.

There were two steps that the researcher did in this research. They were kinds of data and techniques of data analysis. In kinds of data the researcher read the play to get some data related to the subject. The researcher found the conflict of julie's parents from the play so that julie's mother educated her to hate men. From all data got from reading, the researcher classified them into conflict of parents, and the influence of the conflict toward Julie.

Another technigue the researcher used to support her analysis and solved the problem was the library research by reading books and jurnal connected with the problem. The theories from some experts were the guide in analyzing the problem.

Discussion

Julie (the main character in this play) was a daughter of a nobleman. Her behaviour and personality were much influenced by her parents. Between her father and mother, there was a conflict that made the family broken. Actually, the conflict was started by her mother. Before getting married she had an inner conflict in making a decision who would be her husband. In order to raises her status, she married a nobleman since she came from common people. Eventhough she had a man of her heart, she chose to marry that nobleman but she kept in toch with her boyfriend because she did not love her husband. So, from the very first time, there were no conformity, love, and happyness in the family. Julie's mother married him because she wanted the aquality since julie's mother was of plebeian birth and the daughter of quite simple people. In another words, she just needed social status. This condition was understood well by Julie as stated below in her conversation.

Julie : you don't really mean that. Besides, my secrets are already common property.
You see, my mother was pf plebeian birth, the daughter of quite simple people.

She was brought up according to the theories of her time as regards equality, woman's liberty, and all that sort of thing; and she had a decided objection to marriage. So when my father made love to her she said she could never marry him,... (p : 309)

When Julie comes into the world, her mother could not accept her. Therefore she raised and educated Julie as a boy. She taught her against her nature as a woman.

Julie : . . . I came into the world against my mother's wishes, so far as I can make out. My mother wanted to bring me up as a child of nature : I was even to learn everything a boy learns to become a proof that a woman is as good as man. I had to go about dressed as a boy and learn how to handle a horse . . . (p : 309)

Another conflict came again. It happened because of the faulty care and the unfaithfulness of Julie's mother. Julie's father did not agree to the way her mother taught her so that he took control over the household. He did everything that was altered to suit his wishes. He acted like this because he found that what Julie's mother did was wrong. And this situation made Julie's mother suffer and later she taught Julie to hate men. This explanation was supported by the following conversation between two housekeepers - Jean and Kristin.

Jean : miss Julie's mad again to night; absolutely mad!

Kristin : so you're back again, are you!

Jean : I took the Count to the station, and as I passed the barn on my way home I went in and danced , who should I see but the young lady leading the dance with the gamekeeper. But the moment she catches sight of she rushes straight ladies like - well, I' ve never seen the like of it. She 's mad! (p : 291)

The quotation taken from the play above described Julie's bad and aggressive behaviour. She was a nobleman's daughter, and as daughter of nobleman she should behave well to keep her family's honour, especially, in front of the public. She was like a wild girl who danced like a mad man without being able to control herself where and who she was. Her parents did not teach her how to behave as a good woman and her mother taught her to act like a boy. Her parents never gave her religion education. They were busy with their own problems. Her mother did not have enough time to take care of her daughter because she was more interested in another man. Moreover she did not expect Julie's existence. Her father did not care about her either. He handed his daughter's education over to her mother but she misused it to teach Julie to hate men.

And that was the influence of parents' conflict toward a child, she became an aggressive person. Usually, a woman was asked to dance by a man, not a woman asked a man. Julie who came from a noble family asked one of her housekeepers to dance with her. She behaved like this because she never thought about the etiquette how to be a good lady. In fact she was taught to be man by her mother. And that was why she became an aggressive woman.

Julie's parents fail to be a good parents for their daughter. Home condition also influences the development of a child. A good condition of a home will make a child grow to be a responsible man. Multidirection communication should be developed in a family so

that the child can identify his role as a child and a family member. If there is no communication between child and parents, the psychology of the child will be in trouble. It makes the child become aggressive, sensitive and passive. This situation is found in Julie's home. There was no communication between her and her parents. If there were, it would not be a good communication, only a bad lesson she got from them. Since her parents did not have love and affection to each other, Julie hated men because she saw and found her mother suffered of the condition. Julie released her feeling of hate to her fiancé. She treated him like an animal.

Kristin : you saw it, did you ?

Jean : I did. They were in the stable yard one evening and the young lady was "training" him, as she called it. D'you know what that was? Why, she was making him jump over the riding – whip the way you teach a dog to jump. Twice he jumped, and got a cut with the whip each time; but the third time he snatched the whip from her and broke it into a thousand pieces. And then he went off. (p : 292)

It seemed that Julie was really hate men by treating him like that. She broke her engagement in order to make her father embarrassed because the man was her father's choice. Besides, she was afraid that she would suffer because of man just like her mother. She did not want it happened to her. So, she made him suffer first and then she broke the engagement.

She really had no morality as a human being or even as a woman, because her parents never introduced her what the morality was. Conflict that occurred between Julie's father and mother made her grow as a woman without having the sense of humanity. She treated her valet as if he was not a human that had a feeling. When she talked to Jean – her valet, she asked him to kiss her shoe.

Julie : bravo! Now you must kiss my shoe too, and then everything will be quite perfect (p : 297)

Eventhough Jean was a valet, but he was a human like she was. He also had a feeling and self-esteem that everybody must respect. Julie could not respect someone because she learned that her parents never respected each other. So it was not surprising that she did it because she was never introduced to that sort of thing by her parents.

In order to forget the problem that she had at home, she turned to alcohol. She thought that being drunken could make her forget her pain and sadness. Drink could give her happiness, but it just stood for a short time. Since she was the only child in the family, she had nobody to share her pain. So, Julie did not have a place to speak freely about her problem and her sadness. She bore the burden alone. To forget them all, she drank and danced. Through drinks and dances she could release all of her burden, eventhough drinking alcohol was not good for health.

Julie : . . . give me a glass of wine
(Jean fills her glass).

(Looking at her watch) but we must talk first ; we ' ve still a little time left. (drinks the wine and holds out her glass for more)

Jean : don't drink so immoderately – it will go to your head !

Julie : what if it dos?

Jean : what if it does? It's vulgar to get drunk! Was it you wanted to say? (p: 309)

After her mother's death, she spent her time a lot with her valet because she did not have anyone else to talk to and could listen to her except Jean. She could talk about her pain and shared her burden with him. And, then, love grew between them, the love that should not happen. In facing this reality, julie was afraid of getting hurt when she married later just like her mother. She did not want to have an unhappy marriage or broken family like her parents. That made her did not love Jean with all her heart.

Julie : . . . ! but, jean – you must give me courage – tell me that you love me !
come and put your arms around me ! (p : 304)

Julie lose her self-confidence. She was afraid of doing the same thing with what she had done to her fiance.

Jean : . . . in which case your love no higher than mine – but I could never be content with being a mere animal for you, and your love I cana never awaken.
(p : 308)

And then when she found there was no way out, she felt hopeless and desperate. She could not stand facing the hard life anymore. She was realy on the verge of ruin.

Julie : help me, help me ! only tell me what to do – where to go ! (p : 312)

Julie : I cannot go ! I cannot stay here! Help me ! I am so tired, so unutterably tired.
Order me! Set me in motion! I can no longer think, nor act . . . (p : 313)

From the quotation above it seemed the Julie yielded in her pain, in her hopelessness. She was realy disappointed by life, parents and the man she loved. In her life she never got the happiness and love but pain and suffering.

Julie : (on her knees, with hands clasped together) : o god in heaven put an end to my miserable life! Take me away from this filth in which I am sinking! Save me! Save me! (p: 307)

The following quotation also supported the previous one.

Julie : . . . ! oh, I'm so ntired ; I haven't the strength to do anything : I can't repent, can't run away, can't stay; can't live - can't die! Help me now! Order me, and I'll obey you like a dog! Do me last survice, save my honour, save his name! (p : 322)

Julie screameed for help. She could not stand anymore, but Jean could not help her. On that situation she thought that there was no way out except death. She decided to end her life in order to come out of her pain and her suffering to the eternal life where she never find pain and suffering anymore.

Conclusion and Suggestion

Conclusion

After studying the Strindberg's play *Miss Julie* the researcher would like to sum up the research as follows.

As seen in the play, August Strindberg portrays the influence of parents' conflict toward the development of a child – Julie. Julie ended her life in her pain and her suffering. She could not accept that she was an unwanted child by her parents.

Actually, the fact reflected in this play was taken from situations in our daily life. Marriage conflicts could always appear and could be solved by understanding one another. This situation does not only occur in Sweden where this work came from, but this problem can also be found anywhere in the world including Indonesia.

The expression of love and attention are very important elements for a child to help his development. They should be given by the parents in his childhood even from his mother's womb.

The personality and attitude of a child are built by parents through education in his childhood and the period of pregnancy. If the education is good the personality and attitude of a child will be also good. Parents with conflicts in their home will bother their child development. Like Julie, she grew up as the woman who did not have self confidence. Her mother's taught her to hate men including her father. The influences made her suffer and painful. Because she could not stand the suffering she ended her life by committing suicide.

suggestion

The researcher would like to pass on suggestion to parents the best way to establish personality and attitude of a child. In building the child's personality and attitude, try to behave as good as possible in front of the child. Give him love and attention that he needs. Keep away which thing that can disturb child's development. If the parents have disagreement or fracas, try not to show it to the child.

Cooperation among father and mother in breeding or establishing personality and behavior of a child will bring out better result for the spirit development of the child. It is important for him to learn to have self – confidence. And parents need to give models for this.

The researcher would also like to suggest the parents, if they encounter conflicts in their family, the victim would certainly be their child. Parents' duty is to give their child the happiness in his life not the pain and suffering.

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