

## MOTIVATION OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN SUE MONK KIDD'S *SECRET LIFE OF BEES*

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### ABSTRACT

This research to used know form motivation and special figure character in novel *Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd's. Research type is qualitative. This study was conducted to analyze the motivation of the main protagonist in the novel *Secret Life of Bees* work of Sue Monk Kidd and try to connect with the sociological approach. To obtain more data about the character in the novel, a library research was also conducted by the writer. The writer collected some journals, articles, and some significant notes that could be used as references to investigate this research. And the characters were arranged systematically, in addition to the novel itself, additional data from literature supporters, the data of journals, articles and data from the internet. Result of research indicates that in analyze novel *Secret Life of Bees* in Sue Monk Kidd's, that character of especial figure in novel that is Lily Owens covering character: they are love, fear of failure, hope for reward, and religious feeling. And motivation in the main character's life. The four of them make her successful to achieve her goal. Lily is successful to get away from her cruel father and goes to Tiburon with Rosaleen to know about her mother's death in order to learn about herself. Having analyzed some motivation of the main character in the novel *Secret Life of Bees*, it shows that the motivations makesome results for the main character. Furthermore, the writer analyzes the result of her motivation that will be accepted by the main character.

**Keywords:** motivation, character, novel *Secret Life of Bees*

### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini digunakan untuk mengetahui bentuk motivasi dan karakter tokoh khusus dalam novel *Secret Life of Bees* karya Sue Monk Kidd. Jenis penelitian adalah kualitatif. Penelitian ini dilakukan untuk menganalisis motivasi protagonis utama dalam novel *Secret Life of Bees* karya Sue Monk Kidd dan mencoba untuk terhubung dengan pendekatan sosiologis. Untuk mendapatkan lebih banyak data tentang karakter dalam novel, penelitian perpustakaan juga dilakukan oleh penulis. Penulis mengumpulkan beberapa jurnal, artikel, dan beberapa catatan penting yang dapat digunakan sebagai referensi untuk menyelidiki penelitian ini. Dan karakter disusun secara sistematis, selain novel itu sendiri, data tambahan dari literatur pendukung, data jurnal, artikel, dan data dari internet. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa dalam menganalisis novel *Secret Life of Bees* karya Sue Monk Kidd, karakter tokoh utama dalam novel itu adalah karakter Lily Owens covering: mereka adalah cinta, ketakutan akan kegagalan, harapan akan hadiah, dan perasaan religius. Dan motivasi dalam kehidupan karakter utama. Keempatnya membuatnya sukses untuk mencapai tujuannya. Lily berhasil melarikan diri dari ayahnya yang kejam dan pergi ke Tiburon bersama Rosaleen untuk mengetahui tentang kematian ibunya untuk mengetahui tentang dirinya

sendiri. Setelah menganalisis beberapa motivasi karakter utama dalam novel *Secret Life of Bees*, itu menunjukkan bahwa motivasi membuat beberapa hasil untuk karakter utama. Selanjutnya, penulis menganalisis hasil motivasinya yang akan diterima oleh tokoh utama.

**Kata kunci:** motivasi, karakter, novel *Secret Life of Bees*

## A. INTRODUCTION

Sociological approach leave from a supposition that literary is an expression of society, that also literary reflected and express about life (Wellek dan Werren, 1990: 110). Sociological approach is a literature approach which considered social aspect and society in literary. Sociological approach purposed explain that literary (novel) to reality is a social fact not only reflect in social reality that happen in society which a place the literary was born.

Novel is generally created as a response to the author's feelings of all things seen and experienced, both from the surrounding environment or arising from within him (her). *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd portrays a journey of a motherless fourteen-year-old who was brought up by her cruel father. It depicts about the turmoil of the soul of the main character and how the main character deals with her life issues. The most interesting point in this novel is how Kidd brings the readers to understand that humans are always faced with two different choices, but one choice should be made in order to solve problems and deal with life matters.

The writer chooses motivation because the writer to know deeply about support to makes someone doing to the goals, like a motivation to support to Lily Owen in the novel to doing not only from outside but also from inside to achieve the goals. The writer interested chooses the main character in this novel because the main character has a nice attitude, strong and persistent in the face of problems. Lily's attitude can be increase awareness about the writer of real life situations in the face of problems. Then, how the main character described in the novel can be inspired and motivated other people to be stronger in the face of problems of life. The writer chooses a novel *The Secret Life of Bees* because there are many of motivation which described in the novel. It is able to improve the writer's awareness about real life situations especially how to deal with problems.

Additionally, motivations of the main character in this novel are interesting to discuss. The motivations that drive Lily Owen in the novel to perform her actions not only come from the inside but also come from the outside. The attitude of the main character is so strong and persistent in her struggling to find a better life away from her father and to find her own identity. Therefore, the writer decided to investigate further about motivation and the main character in Sue Monk Kidd's novel *The Secret Life of Bees*.

## B. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The analysis of the novel is how the main protagonists in the novel have a motivation to face many obstacles on the cruelty of his father and the other side really missed the presence of his mother died mysteriously. It is necessary to disentangle about motivation. Motivation has its own aspects, especially from the point of view of the character. In everyday life motivation sometimes has two meanings. Some people say that motivation is movement, but others say that motivation is a reason to act. To find out more about the motivation we need to consider several definitions of motivation (Effendi 45).

Walgito (1990:102) stated motivation comes from another word "drive" which means a push or move to English. Motivation is defined as the power contained within an organism

that pushes to do (driving force). Motive does not stand alone but related to other factors, both external factors, and internal factors. On matters that affect the pattern is called motivation. Also according to Caplin (1993:95), the motives a state of tension within the individual that arouse.

According Gunarsa (2003:76) there are two basic motives that drive a person's behavior, namely the biological motifs associated with the need to maintain a social life and motives related to social needs. While Maslow (in Mahmud, 113) classifies motifs into six levels: physical needs, safety needs, the need for love, sexual needs, and the need for self-esteem and self-actualization needs.

Some of the definitions above it can be concluded that the above definition basically has the same meaning, which hall contain elements of motivation and desire. The motivation that drives the main character in the novel *Secret Life of Bees* to take action, not only from outside but also the motivation comes from within. Guerin stated (1979:324) motivation is the reason for the character's action (that is psychological motivation). It is the same as William's definition saying motivation is a board term to denote that all behavior seeks to satisfy a need or reach a goal (1960:216).

Christopher Russel Reaske (105-107) also gave his opinion about the motivation, and to differentiate it into seven types, are: Hope for reward, Love, Fear of failure, Religious feelings, Greed, Jealousy. The writer decided to make use of Reaske's theory as the approach to investigate what kind of motivation that is used by the main character; Lily, to act and react and how this motivation triggers her to counter her problems and finally be a resilient young girl.

The writer reviews two of other research which previously have discussed about the topic which become the main topic of this thesis. The first, study of Mardianah a student from Hasanudin University Makassar. Her thesis entitled analysis of motivation in *Eugene O'Neill's* play in novel "Desire under the Elms". This thesis analyzes about motivation of the characters in Eugene O'Neill's play and also deal with American daily life. The second is research by Nadrah, a student of Hasanudin University, Makassar. Her thesis entitled analysis Motivation of the main character in novel *Sing Me to Sleep* by Angela Morrison.

This research is useful for writer because the writer finally has the basic conceptual meaning of how to analyze the main character especially which is related to character's motivation. In the case, the writer found the some researchers who apply structuralism approach in their thesis and the thesis discuss the same topic and the research has been carried out by Nadrah. Thesis using structuralism approach is intrinsic elements. There is one point that the writer of the study Nadrah. The study writer, the writer uses sociological approach is intrinsic elements. The writer not only uses the intrinsic elements but also using extrinsic approach is to know about the main character's motivation to achieve goals in a novel *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd.

### C. RESEARCH METHOD

The writer used a qualitative research, this research was conducted. According to Creswell (2013), "qualitative research begins with assumptions and the use of interpretive/theoretical frameworks that inform the study of research problems addressing the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem (44)." Mirroring Creswell's definition, the writer investigated further how Lily as the main character dealt with her life problems in the novel *The Secret Life of Bees*. What is more, this study was conducted to analyze the motivation of the main protagonist in the novel *The Secret Life Bees* work of Sue Monk Kidd and try to connect with the sociological approach. The interconnection is made because in the novel there is clash and conflict in her soul that Lily Owens has to deal

with. Further, according to the sociological theory man is always faced with two difficult choices, but has to be able to choose which one is better to be taken without having to counter or create another problem. To obtain more data about the character in the novel, a library research was also conducted by the writer. The writer collected some journals, articles, and some significant notes that could be used as references to investigate this research.

#### **D. FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

This research is starting from the previous study and the writer analysis about the kind of motivation in this novel "*The Secret Life of Bees*" a novel written by Sue Monk Kidd. This chapter, the writer analyses about the kind of motivation in this novel because the motivation will drive the behavior of the main character, therefore the main character acts in a certain way to reach her goal. Then, the writer also analyzed about the effects of her motivation which is accepted by herself. But before that, the writer explained about the plot of this novel.

##### **1. Character's Motivation**

###### **a. Love**

The main character is motivated to certain action because of the love which she has, the love which she wants, or the love which someone has for her. Lily Owen is the main character or protagonist in this novel. She is a fourteen years old girl and lives in Sylvan, South Carolina. When Lily Owen's mother dies, Lily is four years old at the moment. "My mother died when I was four years old. It was a fact of life, but if I brought it up, people would suddenly get interested in their hangnails and cuticles, or else distant places in the sky, and seem not to hear me. Once in a while, though, some caring soul would say, "*Just put it out of your head, Lily. It was an accident. You didn't mean to do it.*" (Sue Monk, 2002:2-3)

###### **b. Fear of failure**

The character works in a certain act because she fears that she will be crushed if she does not. Everything she does is design to stall or prevent the advent of misery, failure, or literal or spiritual poverty. Moreover, she is threatened with death or torture if she does not do as she tells. In this novel, Lily escapes from her father because her father sometimes tortures her. Lily Owen's life is misery living with her cruel father since Deborah dies. T. Ray is Lily Owen's father and Deborah Fontanel's husband. In this novel, he is an antagonist because he provides an obstacle for protagonist. He is abusive, emotionally neglectful, and discipline harshly to his daughter. Therefore, sometimes he gives his daughter punishment. "Bees!" I shouted. "There's a swarm of bees in my room!" But when we got there, they'd vanished back into the wall like they knew he was coming, like they didn't want to waste their flying stunts on him. "Goddamn it, Lily, this ain't funny." ..... You wake me up again, Lily, and I'll get out the Martha Whites, you hear me?" Martha Whites were a form of punishment only T. Ray could have dreamed up. I shut my mouth instantly. (Sue Monk, 2002:4-5)

###### **c. Hope for reward**

The main character desires to bring happiness and prosperity to herself. All of her actions are planning to hasten the advent of prosperity. Lily's life becomes miserable because she lives with her cruel father. He is very discipline harshly to Lily and never let her to do that the other girls do. Therefore, Lily decides to get away from T. Ray. Lily believes that if she leaves T. Ray, she can get the happiness to herself and begins the new life. It can be seen that Lily helps Rosaleen to put out from the jail and brings Rosaleen on her journey, in which Lily tries to learn about her mother, whether her mother leaves her or not. Then, Lily and Rosaleen go to Tiburon, South Carolina, because Deborah has a picture of a Black Madonna

on the back of that picture which she writes "Tiburon, SC." Lily estimates that Tiburon has been important to Deborah's life. "I just wanna know, of all the places on this earth, why you picked Tiburon," Rosaleen said. "I've never even heard of it." Even though it was dark, I pulled the black Marry picture out of my bag and handed it to her. "It belonged to my mother. On the back it says Tiburon, South Carolina." Let me get this straight. You picked Tiburon' cause your mother had a picture with that town written on the back-that's it?" (Sue Monk, 2002:51).

## 2. Effect motivation in the main character's life

Based on the above explanation that Lily Owen has four motivations which are love, fear of failure, hope for reward, and religious feeling. The four of them make her successful to achieve her goal. Lily is successful to get away from her cruel father and goes to Tiburon with Rosaleen to know about her mother's death in order to learn about herself. Having analyzed some motivation of the main character in the novel "*The Secret Life of Bees*", it shows that the motivations make some results for the main character. Furthermore, the writer analyzes the result of her motivation that will be accepted by the main character.

Since her mother dies, Lily's life becomes miserable because T. Ray, a cruel man who blames her for her mother's death. Therefore, Lily is driven by her need to know the truth about her mother and to learn more about herself. However, she always imagines that her mother is the perfect woman. In order to discover who she is and learn about her mother, she must leave T. Ray. "Oh," she said. "I get it. You ran off 'cause of what your daddy said about your mother. It didn't have nothing to do with me in jail. And here you got me worrying myself sick about you running away and getting in trouble over me, and you would've run off anyway. Well, ain't it nice of you to fill me in." (Sue Monk, 2002:53)

Lily and Rosaleen decide to go to Tiburon because her mother writes the name of the town on the back of a picture of a Black Virgin Mary. It means that Lily leaves her miserable life, look for somewhere new place to settle and begin the new life. At Tiburon, they meet the family of three black sisters who worship the Black Madonna. They are August Boatwright, May Boatwright, and June Boatwright. Lily and Rosaleen hide their identity to Boatwright family and Lily says them that she is an orphan and passing through town on the way to her aunt's house. "So you're Lily and Rosaleen," August said. "Do you have last names?" "Rosaleen . . . Smith, and Lily . . . Williams," I lied and then launched in. "See, my mother died when I was little, and then my father died in a tractor accident last month on our farm in Spartanburg County. I don't have any other kin around here, so they were going to send me to a home." . . . "Rosaleen was our housekeeper," I went on. She doesn't have any family but me, so we decided to go up to Virginia to find my aunt. (Sue Monk, 2002:73-74)

Lily grows closer to August and spends her time in the bee house. Rosaleen spends her time with May. Actually, Lily loves August and May, but she is not sure about June because June is frequently unkind to Lily. Then, one night Lily overhears June and August talk about Lily that Lily lies about her identity. June insists that they cannot keep a runaway girl without let somebody know. But, August cannot let anyone to know about this and cannot to send Lily back to some place she doesn't want to be. "I overheard her talking to August one night on the back porch as I was coming across the yard to go to the bathroom in the pink house. Their voices stopped me beside the hydrangea bush. "You know she's lying," said June. "I know," August told her. . . . "Let who know?" she said. "The police? They would only haul her off someplace. Maybe her father really did die. If so, who better is she gonna stay with for the time being than us?" (Sue Monk, 2002:86-87)

## E. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the result of analyze about "Motivation of The Main Character" in the novel *The Secret Life of Bees*, the writer can concludes that motivation is the process to activate motives into action or behavior to satisfy the needs and achieve the goals, or state and readiness of someone who encouraged her behavior to do something to achieve certain goals. The goals in the motivation of cycle that can be defined as a motivation that will be relieved the needs and reduce the incentive. Thus, to achieve a goal will likely improve physiological or psychological benefits and will reduce the incentive. The definition of motivation is closely related to the emergence of a tendency to do anything to achieve that goal. In the novel "The Secret Life of Bees" the main character, Lily Owen, have four motivations are love, fear of failure, hope for reward, and religious feeling. The four of them make her successful to achieve her goal. Lily is successful to get away from her cruel father and goes to Tiburon with Rosaleen to know about her mother's death in order to learn about herself. Motivation of the main character makes her to do something in order to relieve the needs and also reduce the incentive. Furthermore, motivation of the main character makes some results that will be accepted by herself. Lily finds the truth of her mother's death that she kills her mother and she must responsible about that. Lily always thinks that her mother never leaves her. In fact, she finds that her mother is not perfect woman as she imagines. Therefore, she tries to forgive herself and her mother, and also she makes the decision not to live with her cruel father anymore.

In daily life, we constantly interact with the people around us. They are behaving due because they have a reason to achieve their goal. The study of the main character motivation in order to improve our care to study literary works in relation with the benefits of the social life, especially to find out the reasons why the characters behave as they do. Of course, the benefits of this novel study not only for the student, but also for a learner of literature itself, especially the writer and this study can be a reference to the next.

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