
| RESEARCH ARTICLE

Literary Analysis of Mysterious Characters of Suspension Characters in The Novel "Tell Me Your Dream" By Sydney Sheldon

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| ABSTRACT

This article aims to analyze strange characters of tremendous character in the novel Tell Me Your Dream by Sidney Sheldon. Like any other Sheldon's previous novel, this novel tells an interesting, strange story with a woman as the main character. The writer also employs the knowledge about the strange character which apply in the novel that can be used to convey information. And last but not least, the writer can give a contribution to teaching prose. Based on the background of the topic, the writer states the exact problems of this study as follows: 1) how is the definition of mysterious characters generally? 2) What are the multitudinous characters of the main character shown in the novel? 3) What is the benefit of Tell me your Dream in teaching Prose? Based on the problem the writer states, the objectives of this study are as follows: 1) To describe the definition of the multitudinous character. 2) To give an explanation of the multitudinous characters of the main character that occurred in the novel. 3). This research applied data collection method with Content-analysis: The method of data analysis through some ways such as reading the novel, books and international journal, international thesis, classifying the data, and analyzing the novel's content. Based on the analysis, the writer summarized that Tell Me Your Dreams, a novel written by Sidney Sheldon in 1998, is one of the media of teaching prose, for example, analyzing a novel. The benefit of analyzing novels for Teaching Proses is an alternative fun way of studying prose.

| KEYWORDS

Edukasi, analisis wacana, multimodal, novel

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1. Introduction

Literary work can be defined as a branch of literature dealing with the word as raw material to create a picture, an idea or a story in a meaningful pattern. Literary work is valued as a work of art with a literary style which is a different form that we use in daily life. Therefore, one way for analyzing a literary work is through a psychological approach. Rene Wellek and Austin Warren in Theory of Literature give their opinion about literature and its relation with real-life that is: "Literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation – But furthermore, literature "represents" "life"; and "life" is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary imitation." (Rene and Wellek, 1948: 94). Furthermore, Henry Hudson states, "Literature is the expression of what is being watched by people in daily life, what is contemplated and felt about the interesting life, essentially is the expression through the language" (Hardjana, 1981:10). Novels tell stories, which are typically defined as a series of events described in a sequence. It has plot, character, point of view, theme and setting. The plot is something that happens in the story.

According to MH Abrams, "novel" is the term applied to "a great variety of writings", which are "extended works of fiction written in prose". This definition helped distinguish the novel from the short story and the novelette. In most European languages, the term for "novel" was "roman", which was derived from the medieval term "romance". The English name is derived from the Italian "novella", meaning "a little new thing". Novella, short tales in prose, and picaresque narratives which emerged in sixteenth-century Spain were

predecessors of the novel. The former was in vogue in Italy during the fourteenth century. On the other hand, Picaresque narratives are derived from the term "pícaro", which in Spanish means "rogue....*show more content...*

The rise of the novel in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries coincided with the rise of the middle class. Therefore, one of the most significant features of the novel was that it focused on the bourgeois lifestyle and values. The novel was a dominant literary form during the Victorian period. The realistic novel of the nineteenth century gave the effect of realism "by representing complex characters with mixed motives which are rooted in a social class, operate in a developed social structure" (Abrams, 254). Jesse Matz in *The Modern Novel: A Short Introduction* makes an excellent point. He says: "The modern novel has always been modern – always concerned mainly with contemporary life, and, as the name suggests, always after the new thing it can be concluded that there is a clear relation between literature and society. And the novel is one kind of literary work and the mirror of one society in which the novel was created. By reading, interpreting, and analyzing a novel, the readers or researchers understand the condition and problems in one society based on the novel and the better views to face many problems in life. Literature for the readers can give pleasure and knowledge. The novel is created by the author who imitates the real world, which is combined with his/her imagination. By reading a novel, people can get pleasure and much understanding of human characters. As a part of literature, a novel gives us knowledge that is rich in psychological aspects as it can be seen through characters. Character is one of the important elements in fiction, especially novels. It has an important role to build up a story.

Each character has its own characteristics that make a story, and each of them is portrayed in different physical and psychological. Based on the psychological side, literature can be studied and analyzed using the psychology theory. Psychology studies a wide variety of human behaviours, experiences, interactions, and it also suggests ways to improve the quality of human life, and literature covers human activities. *Tell Me Your Dreams* by Sidney Sheldon is a work of fiction but is based on several actual cases. I really enjoyed this book and found it to be an interesting read. I was definitely hooked by the plot and wanted to discover what happened next. *Tell Me Your Dreams* by Sidney Sheldon was laden with such realistic details that I learned plenty of information about certain subjects that I never knew.

The best thing about Sheldon's novels is their ability to completely immerse the reader in the ocean of the plot. You smile when the protagonist begins a love story, cry when she has a heartbreak, and laugh the vilest laugh when she takes her revenge. And, it's not just a few main characters, but you feel attached to each sidekick that comes along too, the way you are related to all people in actual life.

2. Review of Literature

In common language, multitudinous characters are a condition in which an individual's personality split that emerges another personality. These personalities are usually an expression of the actual personality that emerges because they cannot bring things that they want into reality. In simple terms, it can be said that there is one person who has a personality more than one or two persons at a time. Sometimes the patient does not know that he has multiple personalities, that there are two persons in one body who also do not know each other, and worse, sometimes, these two conflicting personal natures.

2.1 Synopsis of *Tell Me Your Dreams*

Sidney Sheldon's *Tell Me Your Dreams* conveys three very different women at the onset of the novel. Introduced first is a gorgeous, workaholic and intelligent young girl named Ashley Patterson, who works at a leading firm in Silicon Valley, Toni Prescott, who loves to sing, party and enjoy; and Alette Peters - who loves artwork and has an inborn talent of painting.

2.2 Analyzing Fictional Character

A fictional character is a person or other being in a narrative (such as a novel, play, television series, film, or video game). The character may be entirely fictional or based on a real-life person. The distinction of a "fictional" versus "real" character may be made by somebody in an imaginative literary work created by an author. The most obvious difference between characters in stories and people in real life is that story characters tend to be driven. Another aspect that sets characters in fiction apart from people in life is that characters tend to fulfil narrative functions in their stories.

2.3 The structure of a Novel

The novel is one of the literary forms. The most popular fiction is novels and short stories, the most written and read in literary works (Somardjo & Saini, 1986: 32). The novel is derived from the Italian novella, Spanish novela, French nouvelle for 9 "new", "news", or "a short story of something new" today is a long narrative in literary prose. Abrams (1981: 119) said that in literature, novella means "a small brand new thing", and then the word is interpreted as "a short story in prose form". A novel is defined as a story that consists of more than one event containing a plot with characters, setting, a theme, a point of view, and the character's worldview. Meanwhile, Taylor (1981) explained that: the novel is normally a prose work of quite some length and complexity which attempts to reflect and express something of the equality or value of human experience or conduct. The writer concludes from the previous explanation that the novel is also closely related to human experience or author alignments against a certain community.

2.4 Elements of Teaching Prose

When identifying a piece of writing as prose, the piece should be written in a typical, straightforward manner. It will follow grammatical structures rather than a meter or verse pattern. A prose lesson is not for memorization of questions and answers but for learning a language. The prose lesson contains structure, vocabulary, grammar, views and ideas for comprehension. The students read prose with comprehension and write sentences about the lesson using the correct structures and content words.

3. Research Method

This study applies qualitative research. The writer deals with the novel *Tell Me Your Dreams* with the support of many other books and resources related to the topic. The books and other resources in a part of this study are taken from the library and from the internet as well. A qualitative approach to research is concerned with subjective assessment of attitudes, opinions and behaviour. Research in such a situation is a function of the researcher's insights and impressions. Such an approach to research generates results either in non-quantitative analysis. Generally, the technique of focus group interviews, projective techniques and depth interviews are used. This qualitative research looks insightfully into the analysis of multiple characters of a major character in the novel "Tell Me Your Dream". Some data is taken from references related to characters such as the internet, journals international, related prose and drama books, and some other similar novels with the same topic about characters. The writer uses the data collection method with Content-analysis: Content analysis consists of analyzing the contents of documentary materials such as books, magazines, newspapers and the contents of all other verbal materials, which can be either spoken or printed.

3.1 Analysis of the Data

The method of data analysis:

- a) Reading the novel, the writer reads the novel *Tell Me Your Dreams* novel to acquire data. Mastering and comprehending the novel are really needed in this step.
- b) Analyzing books and international journals, the writer finds information from books journal related to this article
- c) Classifying the data, the writer classifies the primary data and secondary data based on the novel.

Analyzing the content of the novel, the writer analyzes the content of the novel are multitudinous characters of major: character and great value material or great character building.

4. Result and Discussion

The Novel of *Tell Me Your Dreams* Sidney by Sheldon's. *Tell Me Your Dreams* introduces three very different women at the onset of the novel. Introduced first is Ashley Peterson; Ashley Patterson is a beautiful, intelligent and accomplished woman in her office, Global Computer Graphics Corporation. There was Shane Miller – his boss, who seemed to have a crush on him. On the other hand, his other office mate, Dannis Tibble, looks very obsessed with him. Dannis openly flirts with Ashley, and it makes Ashley very uncomfortable and makes her repeatedly refuse the young man's invitations to date. "You'll find out something about me, sweetie. I never give up. Never," said Dannis. p.16.

For the past few days, Ashley has been having nightmares. He felt someone was stalking and threatening his life. But alas, Ashley doesn't know who she is. The situation made Ashley paranoid; she felt that her range of motion was limited. At its peak, he was shocked to death when his computer screen showed a photo of himself being slashed by a knife. His life is in danger. In a different corner of the Global Computer Graphics Corporation, two other girls, Toni Prescott and Alette Peters are seen constantly gossiping about Ashley's life. Toni, who is good at singing, is the most vocal in voicing his hatred for Ashley. He even referred to Ashley as "The Holy One." Toni, who was born in London, hates working there, and her job is only to look for handsome young men in cyberspace. He is quite picky; not infrequently young people he knows have been kicked out before they are known further. Until finally, he really fell in love with Jean Claude, a young man from Quebec City, North America, who owns a small jewellery shop.

Alette Peters is another. This Rome-born woman is very infatuated with painting. With the same hobbies, he finally found Richard Melton, a handsome painter who was able to captivate his heart. Their meeting in San Francisco was very memorable. There is love in each of their hearts.

Ashley feels her life is getting messed up when someone sneaks into her apartment and messes with her furniture. "...Did that guy take off his pants, take Ashley's panties, then rub them against her body? Did the man imagine raping her? Rape and kill her? He felt short of breath." p.50. Ashley is almost certain that the stalker is Dannis Tibble until Ashley finds out that the young man was found dead in his apartment. Furthermore, successively, the youths who were in the lives of Toni and Alette were also found dead in the same condition. Stabbed to death, then castrated. Very terrible!

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Unfortunately, Ashley was the only person accused. On the night of Dannis' death, Ashley did stop by his apartment, but that was because Dannis asked him for help. Things got even more chaotic when the police found out that Ashley was the one who killed Jean Claude and Richard Melton (from the fingerprints left behind and the DNA from the remains of bodily fluids), even though she didn't know him at all! It was a situation that ruined his life. The terror was not over. While attending a ten-year reunion, Ashley got the news again that Jim Cleary – someone she used to love very much, had also been killed exactly one day before her departure for London. Ashley had thought that her father was the killer of Jim because he was very against their relationship. Ashley's father, –Dr. Patterson was a prominent surgeon who was very well known for his brilliant career.

Ashley was finally thrown into prison when Deputy Blake, a police officer guarding her apartment, was also found dead in the same pathetic condition as the other victims. Now, Ashley is completely insane by being the accused in a series of murder cases that she didn't commit. Fortunately, a lawyer – David, finally agreed to help defend Ashley in court. This cannot be separated from the debt affair years earlier between David and Dr Patterson.

So, is Ashley really innocent? Who are Toni and Alette? Who is the real killer? And how did David try to defend Ashley? Hmm, it's better to see for yourself.

1. Alette Peters

Alette Peters is twenty years old. She is plain-looking, creative or stunningly beautiful, depending on her mood or how she is feeling about herself. But she is never simply pretty. Part of her charm is that she is completely unaware of her looks. She is shy and soft-spoken, with a gentleness that she is almost an anachronism. She is a vegetarian. Alette first existence was when Ashley was eight years old in Roma. She is created to stand up for Ashley. She comes in order to protect Ashley because Ashley was too afraid for her father, who raped her one night. Because Alette was born in Roma, she has a musical Italian accent. She loves everything about Rome. Alette is unique because her senses are tuned to the nuances of colours that everything she feels, sees, smells and hear; she can describe it into colors. She likes to spend her time visiting museums, especially museums of art. She loves painting and wants desperately to be an artist, although she knows that her mother really hates her and never supports her for what she does. Alette is manic depressive. She suffers from anomie, a feeling of alienation from others. Her mood swings always catch her unaware, and in an instant, she goes from a blissful euphoria to a desperate misery. She has no control over her emotion. Toni is the only one with whom Alette would discuss her problems. Toni always has a solution for everything, and it is usually to go and have some fun. Alette's has a changing mood that she cannot control sometimes. Whether intended or not, the smallest slights will drive Alette into a rage. When the black cloud descended, Alette sometimes imagines. People on the street have heart attacks, are struck by automobiles, or are mugged and killed. She would play the scenes out in her mind, and they were vividly real. A moment later, she feels shame. However, on her good days, she is a completely different person. She is genuinely kind and sympathetic and enjoys helping people.

2. Tony Prescott

Tony Prescott is 22 years old, impish, vivacious, and daring. She is half smouldering, half firecracker. Her face is puckishly heart-shaped; her eyes are mischievous brown, her figure alluring. She was born in London, and she speaks with a delightful British accent. She is athletic and loves sports, particularly winter sports: skiing and bobsledding and ice-skating. Going to college in London, she dresses conservatively during the day, but she wears miniskirts and disco gear at night and makes the swinging rounds. She has a beautiful voice, sultry, and at some of the clubs, she plays the piano and sings, and the patrons will cheer her. She is an aggressive woman; she loves to have fun and goes to the party. That is when she feels most alive. She does not like Ashley's life; it is so boring for her. Toni hates her mother inside. She hates her for what she tells her, underestimates her, and

doubts her ability. Toni and Alette generally maintain a friendship, and Toni's favourite subject is Ashley Patterson. Toni dislikes Ashley and criticizes her harshly. Toni is the dominant alter than Alette. She is tricky and has control over Alette; she always has a plan for them, and she likes to tell Alette what she will do. She will try anything for her will. Toni is a brave woman, and she is really dangerous. She has killed five men by castrating them. Toni considers that she is the murderer of five men, and she is actually responsible for the five murders. She has no regret for what she has done because she is aware that she is a part of Ashley's mind. Even Toni emerges somehow, but she does not really exist. People know her as Ashley, and she places the blame on Ashley. Toni accuses that she only wants to protect Ashley. She really hates her father for what he has done to Ashley. She has a feeling that when she kills a man, she feels that she is killing her father. She still has a hatred for her father. However, Ashley's alter (Toni) was enraged when she saw the news about her father and the woman he was about to marry as a three-year-old daughter. She was afraid that the girl would suffer the fate she had. Doctor Gilbert drains anger out of Toni by showing the news every day, therefore, making Toni softer every passing day. This softer side of Toni was only a front to show Doctor Gilbert she has finally accepted everything so she and Alette (another alter) could get out of the asylum to kill her father, who is staying in Hamptons for Christmas

3. How important is the prose in teaching the English Language

English language education study program that can be taken in the 7th semester. Teaching prose is about teaching the intricacies of prose, either short stories or novels. The most important thing in teaching prose lies in the creative process and its development. Teaching prose can start with the creative process and then start a story, determine complex problems, a climax and an end. Commonly teaching would be ideal if supported by students who are willing and interested to study literature. The benefits of teaching prose by analyzing novels lie in accepting or learning a piece of literature that contains a content message or moral value delivered by the creators of literary works through a literary work. Another benefit of teaching prose is the literature value itself aims to remain there and not be displaced by globalization because the literature arts nowadays are less desirable, especially to the students, who will be minimal literary textbooks. So it can be a way for increasing student interest in the preservation of literature. Teaching prose can be done with a variety of media; one of the media is literary arts, such as novels or short stories. After analyzing the characters in the novel *Tell Me Your Dreams* can be concluded that Analyzing *Tell me your dreams* can contribute to teaching prose through the novel.

5. Conclusion

In analyzing the novel's main character, the writer uses qualitative research. The main character of the novel is Ashley Patterson, who is an attractive, intelligent, nice woman, but her childhood hurt has made her suffers a mental illness, namely dissociative identity disorder or also known as multitudinous personality — a situation where there are particular completely different personalities in one body — which make her have other specification that is really different to her real personality. *Tell Me Your Dreams* is a novel written by Sidney Sheldon in 1998. Like any other Sheldon's previous novel, this novel tells a fascinating, strange story with a woman as the main character. The novel's main character is Ashley, who hurts from a multitudinous personality because of childhood trauma. Multitudinous personality is a condition in which a person displays multiple distinct identities or personalities (known as alter egos or alters), each with its own pattern of perceiving and interacting with the environment. Then, Ashley is suspected of murder because of her multitudinous personality. In this article, the writer will also analyze Ashley's other individual identities, namely Alette Peters and Toni Prescott and how they are reflected in the novel. This research received no external funding

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