

**FAMILY CONFLICT REFLECTED IN *BREAKING NIGHT* NOVEL (2010):
A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



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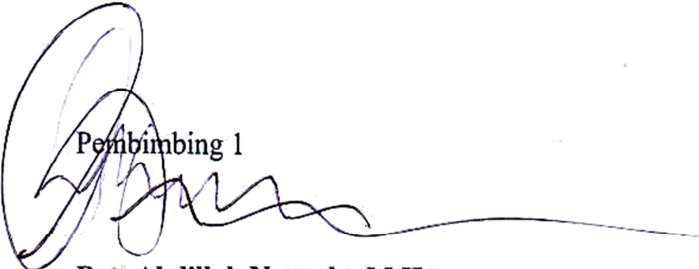
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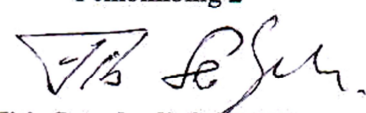
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FAMILY CONFLICT REFLECTED IN *BREAKING NIGHT* NOVEL (2010):

A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

The major issues of this study How is the family conflict of Liz's family reflected in Breaking Night novel (2010)? The objective of this study is to analyze Liz Murray in Breaking Night novel (2010) based on the structural elements of the novel and to describe the family conflict of Liz's family reflected in Breaking Night novel (2010) based on sociological approach.

The research is qualitative study. The researcher uses two data sources: primary data source and secondary data source. The primary data source is Primary data source of this research is the novel Breaking Night novel (2010) that written by Liz Murray. The secondary data sources are the author's biography, essay, comment, homepage, and website about the novel and other relevant sources.

The results of the study show that the character is the writer her self, Liz Muray, Dad (Liz's father) and Ma (Liz's mother), grandma, Rick and Dany and also Lisa (Liz's sister). The setting of time is at the beginning of 1977 until 2009. The setting of place is in a certain place in America. The plot, is exposition where the story started when Liz looks the old black and white picture of her mother. Second, is complication, conflict happens between Liz and her parent. The climax happens on Liz's life, when she accepts the bad news from her sister Lisa. The resolution of this story is that, on the final of Liz's hard life, she finds out a huge success. The point of view of this novel is Breaking Night is more like an adventure story of Liz Muray rather than a moral story about drug addict. The theme of the novel is 'The strongest power of women to runs from family conflict'. There are suitable condition within the novel and the real live in 20th century, where American people differ from highest class and lower class. Economical aspect there are several economical aspects that are related with the live of American society in 20th century. Political aspect where there are several cases that show about the political aspect related with urban and rural. Cultural aspect where the urban people will do everything to gets their joy.

Keywords : Sociological Approach, Breaking Night Novel, Family Conflict.

A. Introduction

1. Background of the Study

In daily life, interacting people always are colored by two things, namely conflict and cooperation. Conflict is a result of purposeful interaction among two or parties in a competitive setting. It refers to overt behavior rather than to potential for action and to subjective states. Especially in family, Family conflict always happens in people living in the same household if they get a problem. Sometimes one of family member can not solve the problem so it will become a family conflict.

Breaking Night tells about the history of a young woman who at age fifteen was living on the streets, and who eventually made it into Harvard. Liz Murray was born to loving but drug-addicted parents in the Bronx. In school she was taunted for her dirty clothing and lice-infested hair, eventually skipping so many classes that she was put into a girls' home. At age fifteen, Liz found herself on the streets when her family finally unraveled. She learned to scrape by, foraging for food and riding subways all night to have a warm place to sleep.

Breaking night is an interesting novel. Why the researcher is interested to study this novel is due to four following reasons: First reason, this novel is written based on true story from the journey life of Liz Murray with her family conflict in her life. It is good idea to learn about history in this day about the Liz struggle. Second reason, the conflict within the novel is based on the daily conflict in a social life. So, by reading this novel, people who have been read it, are able to know the situation of the conflict and they're also able to solve it. Third reason is Liz Murray tries her spirit to live. She tries to work in her school in the morning she does not tell it to anyone although she becomes a cleaning service worker. So, people can learn about the spirit in appreciating their life. Fourth reason is this novel is contained many moral messages for readers where Liz Murray is able to stand even with many conflict in her life, she tries to work hard to become successful people.

Based on the reason and illustration above the researcher will analyze of family conflict happened in the Liz's and family's life using sociological approach. By so doing, the researcher gives the title: FAMILY CONFLICT REFLECTED IN BREAKING NIGHT NOVEL (2010): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.

2. Literature Review

There are found previous analysis related with the Breaking Night novel. The research did by Morris (2012) entitled Breaking the Cycle: An Analysis of Liz Murray's Memoir Breaking Night. The result of his analysis was, the subtitle of Liz Murray's Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard, plainly forecasts a personal narrative of success and redemption. Reading it, I was inspired to see her beating the odds against her ever leading a satisfactory life. Unlike, say, Augustine, she could never have expected to set an example that many readers would be able to emulate. Very few readers, one hopes, would ever find themselves in her extreme circumstances. So, having lived the experiences she did, why did she write the memoir? What motivated her to tell her story? I have concluded that she must not have known how she did it and wrote the memoir in order to find the answers for herself. In this essay I will explore her three major themes of forgiveness, survival, and journey, in order to illuminate her inner journey from nowhere to somewhere.

The different with this study is that, this study focused on the conflict related with sociological analysis

3. Problem Statement

Based on the title and background of the study, the researcher formulates the problem as follow: "How is the family conflict of Liz's family reflected in Breaking Night novel (2010)?"

4. Limitation of the Study

To make the research appropriate with the objectives of the study, the researcher will make limitation to the research. The researcher focused to

analyze the Family conflict of Liz's family reflected in *Breaking Night* novel (2010) using Sociological Approach.

5. Objective of the Study

Based on the Problem Statement above, the researcher can purpose some objectives of the study below:

- a. Analyze Liz Murray in *Breaking Night* novel (2010) based on the structural elements of the novel.
- b. Describe the family conflict of Liz's family reflected in *Breaking Night* novel (2010) based on sociological approach.

6. Benefit of the Study

This research will give contribution in criticizing a literary work and producing the objective criticism about Liz Murray in novel *Breaking Night* (2010) using Sociological Approach.

7. Underlying Theory

Sociology is a study which deals with the society. It is related with the life of human being as a member of society where each other can create all kinds of interactions. Swingewood and Laurenson (1972) state that "sociology is essentially the scientific, objective study of man in society, the study of social institutions and social processes...".

So, the object study of sociology is all life forms of human being society that cause relationship between each other whether how they live, how they create communication, how they need each other or how some of them are needed by the other. "Nevertheless, sociology is concerned also with the processes whereby society changes, gradually, or cataclysmically as in revolution, from one type of society to another and the effects which these changes have on social structure" (Swingewood and Laurenson, 1972: 12). From this statement, it can be underlined that sociology tries to analyze the relation among the social community itself.

There are many aspects in this novel, but the researcher divides into five aspects, such as:

- a. Social Aspect

Everyone who lives in society will need the other people to complete their life. The interaction of people in society can tighten the relationship between them. Swingewood and Laurenson (1972: 15) states that for society is more than ensemble of social institutions that make up social structure: it contains both norms, the standard of behavior which individual comes to accept as right ways of acting and judging, as well as values which are consciously formulated and which people strive to realize socially.

b. Economic Aspect

Damsar (2002: 7) states that sociology of economy is defined as the study how the society fulfills their need toward services and goods by using sociological approach. Economy is a crucial necessary in running our life. Everyone needs to fulfill their life with good economy. Sociology and economy have close relationship. In social life, there are so many economy problems that faced by society. According to Damsar (2002: 3), economy problems in individual, society, national and international level could not only be solved by economic theory, but also by combining economic theory with social theory such as sociology, psychology, anthropology and politic.

c. Politic Aspect

Modern sociologists state that sociology is as a knowledge that discuss social groups. Therefore, each behavior of society must include all aspects in society, for instance, politic. Rush and Althoff (2007: 3) states that politic includes study of human problems, the equipment that developed by human to solve the problems, factors that influenced human decision, and idea that influence human to solve those problems.

d. Cultural Aspect

Williams (1995: 10) states that a modern sociology of culture, whether in its internal studies or in its interventions in a more general

sociology, is concerned above all to enquire, actively, and openly, into these received and presumed relations and into other possible and demonstrable relations. William (1995: 14) also states that the new sociology of culture can be seen as the convergence, and at a certain point the transformation, of two clear tendencies; one within general social thought and then specifically sociology; the other within cultural history and analysis

B. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

The type of the research, which is used by the researcher, is qualitative type. Moleong (1989: 3) said that qualitative research is “a research which result is in the descriptive data”.

2. Object the Study

The object study in *Breaking Night* novel (2010) written by Liz Murray using by sociological approach.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

a. Type of the data

Types of data in this research are the novel *breaking night* novel (2010) and text that consists of words, phrases and sentences.

b. Data Source

The data of this research are primary and secondary data.

- 1) Primary data source of this research is the novel *Breaking Night* novel (2010) that written by Liz Murray
- 2) The secondary data sources are the author’s biography, essay, comment, homepage, and website about the novel and other relevant sources.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

In this study, the researcher applies library research, released document to be observed. The techniques are:

- a. Reads the novel again and again (more than once).

- b. Taking notes of the important parts in both primary and secondary data sources.

Browsing to the internet to get some information article that related to the topic.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the researcher applies descriptive approach. The steps taken by the researcher in analyzing the data are as follows: the first step is analyzing the data of this research. Analyzing the data of this research is trying to clarify the obtained data by selecting the necessary ones. Second step is analyzing the data based on sociological approach.

- a. Reading the novel comprehensively and repeatedly.
- b. Identifying the topic of novel.
- c. Determining the major character that will be analyzed.
- d. Some related books to find out theory, data, and information required.
- e. Reading comprehensively the primary and secondary data sources and taking a note.
- f. Accessing internet to get several information
- g. Arranging the data into several categories
- h. Drawing conclusion based on the data analysis.

C. Research Finding and Discussion

Breaking Night reads more like an adventure story than an addiction-morality tale. It's a white-knuckle account of survival by age 6, Murray knew how to mainline drugs (though she never took them) and how to care for her strung-out parents. She showed uncanny maturity, even as a child, and later managed to avoid that malady of teenagers and memoir writers, self-pity. Murray's stoicism has been hard-earned; it serves her well as a writer. *Breaking Night* itself is full of heart, without a sliver of ice, and deeply moving.

Based on sociological perspective the researcher analyzed *Breaking Night* novel and there are found the social aspects, economical aspects, political

aspects and cultural aspects. The social aspect of the novel is that there are suitable condition within the novel and the real live in 20th century, where American people differ from highest class and lower class. In the *Breaking Night* novel, the American social aspect is showed by the condition of Liz Murray and her family. They are part of the American society who live as a lower class. They do not have house to stay, do not have enough money to buy something, they just trust their life on their friend. Sometimes they live on the alley to sleep and eat. Lower class people in america usually live in a place that is far from good. They sleep every night in the middle of stinky place such as garbage and trash.

There are several economical aspects that are shown related with the live of American society in 20th century, it is about the hard life to live in America and to find a proper work. For lower class people, they only get food from the church, and waits for nun to bless them. Bricks of American cheese and oversized tubs of salt-free peanut butter that came with loaves of uncut bread in long, brown paper bags, for lower class people is something luxury, they can not buy it with their regular money. If they have money, they only can get cheap pork hot dogs from Met Food supermarket.

In political aspect in *Breaking Night* novel, there are several cases that show about the political aspect related with urban and rural. There are a lot of urban people who can't live properly and they become homeless. Because of that situation there are a lot of crimes which is involving them into drug and cocaine. People will do everything to survive and they don't care if they get caught. The above quotation is the life of the urban, where they must live hard, and give their life for crimes.

Cultural aspect, where America in the middle of 20th century, the media especially television and movie is spread like a disease. It means that, the American people love watching TV and movie, it can be seen on below quotation. People dare to sneak around the theatre suppose they can see the movie they like. People also love to watch the rerun of a certain program if the commercial appears on the screen. The addiction of television and movie

make the parents leave their responsibility to their children especially their need of education at home.

D. Conclusion

Based on the analysis the researcher has done, it can be drawn some conclusions as follow:

From the *Breaking Night* novel there are structural analysis of the novel that is character characterization, setting, point of view, plot and theme. The Major character is the writer herself, Liz Muray and the minor character is Dad (Liz's father) and Ma (Liz's mother), grandma, Rick and Dany and also Lisa (Liz's sister). There are several minor characters that is not mentioned in this analysis because, they only appear once and do not support the story of Liz. The next is setting it consists of setting of time and setting of place. The setting of time is at the beginning of 1977 until 2009. The setting of place is in a certain place in America such as; New York, Central Park in Manhattan, East Village in New York, New Jersey and Riverdale across Van Cortland Park. The plot, first is exposition where the story started when Liz looks the old black and white picture of her mother. It's 4x7. Second, is complication where the conflict itself can be divided into internal conflict and external conflict. External conflict happens between Liz and her parent. One day, Ma and daddy get worse by doing the drug habit, their naked arms; the very moment a needle punctured their flesh, thin and vulnerable as grape skin; their blood drawn up the syringe in a red cloud, and then shot back in again, causing that electric rush to overtake their faces. Liz is very angry with that. The climax happens on Liz's life, when she accepts the bad news from her sister Lisa. The resolution of this story is that, on the final of Liz's hard life, she finds out a huge success. Where she gets a scholarship from New York Times. The point of view of this novel is *Breaking Night* is more like an adventure story of Liz Muray rather than a moral story about drug addict. Second, this is the story about an amazing Liz Muray and sometimes it is sad.

The theme of the novel is ‘The strongest power of women to runs from family conflict’.

There are suitable condition within the novel and the real live in 20th century, where American people differ from highest class and lower class. Economical aspect there are several economical aspects that are related with the live of American society in 20th century, where it is about the hard life to live in America and to find a proper work. Political aspect in *Breaking Night* novel, there are several cases that show about the political aspect related with urban and rural. Cultural aspect where the urban people will do everything to gets their joy, such as people dare to sneak around the theatre supposed they can see the movie they like. People also love to watch the rerun of a certain program if the commercial appears on the screen.

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