

**VICTORY IN JEFFERY EUGENIDES' *THE VIRGIN SUICIDES* NOVEL (1993):
A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillments of the Requirement
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education
in English Department**

by:

Yudi Muhammad Ikhsan

A320 110 130

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH EDUCATION
SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

2016

APPROVAL

**VICTORY IN JEFFERY EUGENIDES' *THE VIRGIN SUICIDES* NOVEL (1993);
A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**

PUBLICATION ARTICLE

YUDI MUHAMMAD IKHSAN

A320110130

**Approved to be Examined
by the Consultant Team**

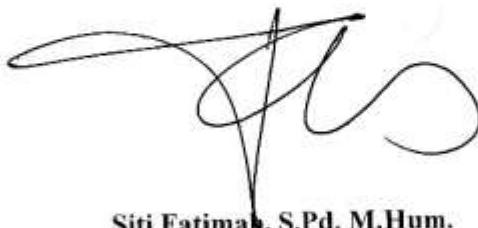
First Consultant



Dr. Phil. Dewi Candraningrum, S.Pd. M.Ed.

NIK. 772

Second Consultant



Siti Fatimah, S.Pd. M.Hum.

NIK. 850

HALAMAN PENGESAHAN

VICTORY IN JEFFREY EUGENIDES' THE VIRGIN SUICIDES NOVEL
(1993): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH

Oleh:

YUDI MUHAMMAD IKHSAN
A. 320 110 130

Telah dipertahankan di depan Dewan Penguji
Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan
Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta
Pada hari Sabtu, 12 November 2016
dan dinyatakan telah memenuhi syarat

Dewan penguji:

1. Dr. Phil. Dewi Chandraningrum, S.Pd. M. Ed.

(Ketua Dewan Penguji)

2. Siti Fatimah, S.P.d. M. Hum .

(Anggota I Dewan Penguji)

3. Dr. Abdillah Nugroho, M. Hum .

(Anggota II Dewan Penguji)

Dekan,



PROF. DR. HARUN JOKO PRAYITNO, M. HUM

NIP. 19650428 199303 1001

TESTIMONY

I am as the researcher, signed on the statement below:

Name : YUDI MUHAMMAD IKHSAN
NIM : A320110130
Study Program : Department of English Education
Title : VICTORY IN JEFFREY EUGENIDES' *THE VIRGIN SUICIDES* NOVEL (1993): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH

Herewith, I testify that in this publication article, there is no plagiarism of the previous literary work which has been raised to obtain bachelor degree on a university, nor there are opinions or masterpieces which have been written or published or others, except those which the writing are referred in the manuscript and mentioned in literary review and bibliography.

Hence, later, if it is proven that there are some untrue statements in this testimony, I will hold full responsibility.

Surakarta, 30 October 2016

The Researcher



Yudi Muhammad Ikhsan
A320110130

VICTORY IN JEFFERY EUGENIDES' THE VIRGIN SUICIDES NOVEL (1993): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH

ABSTRACT

The major problem in this study is how the major character proves his freedom and victory in The Virgin Suicides novel by Jeffrey Eugenides. This study focuses on the one of the major characters namely Lux Lisbon, using the meaning of psychoanalytic analysis. The object of this study is Jeffrey Eugenides The Virgin Suicides novel published in 1993. The type of this study is descriptive qualitative. The primary data source is The Virgin Suicides itself and the secondary data sources are books or any information related to the practice of freedom, victory, frustration, and the moral problem that support the psychoanalytic approach by Sigmund Freud. The technique of analyzing data in this research paper is descriptive. The researcher concludes that freedom, frustration, and victory for life is the individual emotions, it drives from system of personality. The psychological analysis shows that overprotective parents weaken their mental growth. Lux Lisbon cannot handle the conflict in her id. Her self-defense mechanism is also failed. Disability to handle conflict, feeling of loss caused by Cecilia's death and overprotective treatment drive her into condition which Freud calls as mourning and melancholia. Mourning and melancholia is causes depression and frustration. Depression and frustration are the trigger why Lux Lisbon and her daughters finally committed suicide

Keywords: Victory, Virgin Suicides, Psychoanalytic Approach.

ABSTRAK

Masalah utama dalam penelitian ini adalah bagaimana karakter utama membuktikan kebebasan dan kemenangannya dalam novel Perawan Bunuh diri karya Jeffrey Eugenides. Penelitian ini berfokus pada salah satu karakter utama yaitu Lux Lisbon, menggunakan makna analisis psikoanalitik. Objek penelitian ini adalah novel Jeffrey Eugenides yang berjudul Perawan Bunuh diri yang diterbitkan pada tahun 1993. Jenis penelitian ini adalah deskriptif kualitatif. Sumber data primer adalah novel Perawan Bunuh diri sendiri dan sumber data sekunder adalah buku atau informasi yang berkaitan dengan kebebasan, kemenangan, frustrasi, dan masalah moral yang mendukung pendekatan psikoanalitik oleh Sigmund Freud. Teknik analisis data dalam makalah penelitian ini adalah deskriptif. Peneliti menyimpulkan bahwa kebebasan, frustasi, dan kemenangan bagi kehidupan adalah emosi individu, mendorong dari sistem kepribadian. Analisis psikologis menunjukkan bahwa orang tua overprotektif melemahkan pertumbuhan mental mereka. Lux Lisbon tidak bisa menangani konflik di id nya. Mekanisme pertahanan diri juga gagal. Tidak bisa menangani konflik, memiliki rasa kehilangan yang disebabkan oleh kematian Cecilia dan pengobatan overprotektif yang menyebabkan Lux Lisbon ke kondisi yang disebut Freud sebagai berkabung dan melankolis. Berkabung dan melankolis menyebabkan depresi dan frustasi. Depresi dan frustasi menjadi penyebab utama mengapa Lux Lisbon dan saudara-saudara perempuannya akhirnya memutuskan untuk bunuh diri

Kata Kunci: Kemenangan, Kemenangan yang semu, Depresi, Frustasi, Perawan, Bunuh Diri, Psikologis.

1. Background

Victory and defeat is above all an emotional condition; although physical destruction contributes to a degree, it does so jointly with the more powerful causal lines flowing from morale and organizational coherence (Randall, 2010: 9). Popular history, journalism, and political rhetoric extol yet another theory: Leadership – having a better general – is the main determinant of victory. Psychological strategy is virtually never discussed or considered, despite the fact that psychological strategy is the core of the art of victory.

Psychological strategy is employed in defining and achieving grand strategic goals, which reflect the desires which are psychological/ emotional of a society. How goals are identified determines their appeal and motivation value. How perceptions are shaped in target audiences will determine success or failure in achieving goals. The art of psychological strategy will either motivate or paralyze or confuse, divide or unite, thus determining victor vanquished. (Copley:2006/120) Psychology expert, Hilgard (1962: 498) says that frustrating event is one in which directed activity is blocked, slowed up, or otherwise interfered with. Various cases caused by bad experience, frustration, and depression can be proven in *The Virgin Suicides* novel that is experienced by Lux, the main character in *The Virgin Suicides* novel.

The author of *The Virgin Suicides* novel, Jeffrey Eugenides, was born in Detroit and attended Brown and Stanford Universities. *The Virgin Suicides* was published in 1993 and was adapted into a motion picture in 1999 by Sofia Coppola. In 2003, Jeffrey Eugenides received the Pulitzer Prize for his novel *Middlesex*, which was also a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, and France's Prix Médicis. He joined the faculty of Princeton University in the fall of 2007. *The Virgin Suicides* is the 1993 debut novel by American writer Jeffrey Eugenides. The fictional story, which is set in Grosse Pointe, Michigan during the mid 1970s, centers on the lives of the five beautiful and entrancing Lisbon sisters. The girls fascinate their community as their neighbors struggle to find an explanation for their acts. (jeffreyeugenides.weebly.com: 2012)

Struggle to get victory in the “Lux” *The Virgin Suicides* novel, shows about Lux life, society, and the trouble of his life. There are some requirements for having freedom in society that become a conflict in Lux’s life, so those become the conflict in this story. Researcher

uses psychoanalytic approach for researching Lux's psychology, thus her depression and frustration to get a victory in her life, undergoes a problem which makes him become insane and make a final choice to suicide herself.

Based on the background above, the researcher proposes to conduct a research entitled **“VICTORY IN JEFFERY EUGENIDES’ THE VIRGIN SUICIDES NOVEL (1993): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.”**

2. Research Method

In this research, the researcher uses a qualitative research. It is a library research while data sources need literary data. This kind of research has purpose to analyze literature using an individual psychology approach. There are some steps to conduct the research. They are: (1) determining the type of the study (2) determining the object of the study (3) determining data and data source (4) determining technique of data collection, and (5) determining technique of data analysis. The object of the study is Victory in Jeffery Eugenide' The Virgin Suicides Novel (1993). It is analyzed by using a psychoanalytic approach. There are two data sources which are needed to conduct this research. They are primary data sources and secondary data sources. The primary data are the main data obtained from all the words, dialogues, phrases and sentences in the novel. The source of primary data is Jeffery Eugenides' The Virgin Suicides Novel (1993) by Harper Collins Canada. The secondary data are the supporting data taken from literary books, criticism, and some articles related to the novel. The sources of secondary data are taken from other sources related the study, such as: website, dictionary, and some books which support the research. In conducting the study, the writer uses the techniques in collecting the data as follows: (a) Reading the original *The Virgin Suicides* novel several times (b) Determining the characters of novel (c) Taking notes of important things for both of primary and secondary data source (d) Classifying data by determining the relevant data. The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis.

3. Discussion

In describing the correlation of each element, it is necessary to collect and relate these elements into the discussion of analysis. This novel tells us about a struggle, a struggle to get a freedom, but atleast the last choice to make a victory by suicides. Lisbon's girls especially Lux Lisbon that search a freedom in their life to get the freedom in many aspects. The freedom aspects like from his family. Lux Lisbon as major character is second youngest of the Lisbon girls. Beautiful, sexy, slim, mischievous, adventurous, and eventually promiscuous, Lux, age fourteen, epitomizes all that the boys desire about the Lisbon girls. She is a secret smoker since the age of twelve, and is seen laughing with delinquent boys and getting rides on motorcycles long before she begins her campaign of sex on the Lisbon roof. Though smoking and having sex outdoors in winter hint at a self-destructive streak, Lux appears to act clearly and deliberately, leaving the boys to wonder about her real plans.

Beside the major character, Lux Lisbon. there are several minor characters in this novel. The minor characters that supporting the major character. The first example of the minor character is Lisbon girl. Other sister of Lux Lisbon that all make submitted to suicides themselves started from the younger sister, Cecilia Lisbon were thirteen, and fifteen (Bonnie), and sixteen (Mary), and seventeen (Therese). The second is Trip Fontaine, The high school stud. Trip emerges from an unspectacular childhood to become the handsomest boy in high school. Fully aware of his masculine power, Trip takes great care of his appearance, entrance, clothing, and hair. He swaggers down the hall and suns himself daily in the family pool. Trip cares little for school, and instead takes regular trips to his car to smoke marijuana and run a minor drug business on the side. Female admirers, who swoon at his every move and climb willingly into his bed, continually surround him. His recurrent erotic success is assured by his intuitive, gentlemanly discretion, which never allows him to reveal the details of his conquests. When Trip meets Lux and falls overwhelmingly in love, Trip has no idea how to pursue her, having always been the one pursued. The third is The neighborhood boys, The narrators of the novel. "The neighborhood boys" are an indistinct group, comprising a number of boys mentioned in the narrative, but not necessarily limited to those mentioned. During the events described in the novel, they are in high school, live in the same suburb as the Lisbons, and have always been fascinated by the Lisbon girls. They look back on the

suicides from middle age, where they are still deeply haunted by the girls' deaths. They narrate the story as a way of making sense of the girls' actions, motives, and desires over the course of their final year of life. The fourth is Mr Lisbon The father of the Lisbon family. A thin, effeminate, retiring man with a high, boyish voice, Mr. Lisbon teaches math at the local high school, for which his daughters receive free tuition. The fifth is Mrs. Lisbon The mother of the Lisbon family. Mrs. Lisbon, a vehement, forceful matriarch, is the de facto head of the Lisbon household. Heavy and commanding, with steel-wool hair and glasses, she bears little resemblance to her five lovely daughters, leaving the boys to wonder how she could have produced them. She rules the house with an iron fist, strictly supervising the girls' comings and goings, television watching, and church attendance. The sixth is Peter Sissen The first boy to set foot inside the Lisbon house. The eighth is Paul Baldino One of the high school boys. Even at fourteen, Paul Baldino's gut, tall tales, gold rings, sleek black shoes, and intimidating presence leave no doubt that he is the son of Sammy "The Shark" Baldino, a suspected local gangster. The ninth is Joe Hill Conley The practical joker. Joe makes farting noises at school assemblies, he nonetheless wins all the school prizes. The ten is Chase Buell Son of a Christian Scientist. The eleventh is Parkie Denton Mary's Homecoming date. The twelve is Kevin Head Therese's Homecoming date. The thirteenth is Valentine Stamarowski A polite Polish boy. The fourteenth Dr. Hornicker The hospital psychiatrist. The fifteenth is The paramedics Two men who drive the community's emergency vehicle. The sixteenth is Old Mrs. Karafilis The Greek grandmother of Demo Karafilis, one of the neighborhood boys. The seventeenth is Dominic Palazzolo An overly suave Italian boy of romantic temperament. Dominic lives with his relatives in the neighborhood. The eighteenth is Miss Kilsem A social worker. Miss Kilsen was hired by the high school after Cecilia's death and she is thought to be the only person in whom the Lisbon girls confided. The nineteenth is Father Moody The local Catholic priest.

In *The Virgin Suicides* novel there are any two settings, setting of time and setting of place. Setting of time, the story begins while Cecilia Lisbon, who at thirteen is the youngest of five cherubic Lisbon sisters slits her wrists while taking a bath. June in suburbia, school is out, and summer has begun. It's thirteen months, from June to the following August, in an unspecified year during the Vietnam War. Point of view in this novel. In this novel Jeffrey

Eugenides use the first-person plural perspective. Because Neighboard guys as narrator and described about lisbon girls especially Lux Lisbon which major characteristic here, and describe narrator by “We” mean Neighboard guys. Narrator include as participant that tells and searchs all about Lisbon girl especially Lux Lisbon. Style, Jeffrey Eugenides also makes her own writing style, she uses standard and non-standard language by combining many sentence to construct long explanation to explain character appearance, personality, situation, or place while short sentences appear in the dialogue. Jeffrey Eugenides also applies figurative language to beautify her work. He applies simile, hyperbola, metaphor, and symbol on his novel. Jeffrey Eugenides writes the novel rich of simile and hyperbola as his expression to show the deeper of the personality from the character or the condition.

The three words *Id*, *Ego*, and *Superego* will be used in the Lux’s structure of personality. The three elements take a big role in developing the idea of Lux’s mind. The *Id* is the motivation of Lux to make the rebellion through many reasons that cause her unpleased with his condition, the *Superego* is the controller of her wishes. It shows the impact of what she does, what the id wants to do. It causes her feel the anxious. The *Ego* is the judge to decide what to do.

In *The Virgin Suicides* novel tells about Lisbon girls especially Lux Lisbon who has major character here. She is a woman who want a freedom, the truly freedom. A woman that have a lot problem, problem with his life, love, and his parents. Lux Lisbon make some struggle to her parent but atleast her struggle make a point to do suicides herself and all her sisters. Lux appears to act clearly and deliberately, leaving the neighborhood boys to wonder about her real plans. Lux's subsequent failure to make curfew after homecoming is what results in the sisters' confinement to the house. Lux kills herself by sitting in the garage with car running, getting poisoned from carbon monoxide. Finally, all the Lisbon girls are suicides themself. So the researchers find that the theme for this novel is “Parent Should knows their children and what they want need and not make to curb their children what makes their submitted a final point to suicides themself” That all the discussion about this novel, a great novel that tells about the the suicides to make parent should know what children need and not to curb them, and make all parent over the world known what they should be with their children today or future for the sake of happiest.

4. Conclusion

After analyzing the whole novel and all of the data dealing with Lux's personality, the researcher comes to the conclusion that Jeffrey Eugenides' *The Virgin Suicides* is the reflection of author's main idea.

The researcher concludes that apparent victory, freedom, and then make the final choice to suicide are the individual emotions, it drives from system of personality. When *id* wants to be satisfied soon, must be considered with morality. It can be said that *ego* has given a pressure on *id* and it causes the conflicts in the personality. Jeffrey Eugenides gives the important points when the major character, Lux, gets the conflict between her *ego* and *super ego* to prove her freedom, but after several struggle she thinks she failed to have a freedom in her life, and make a final choice to suicide that was she thought will give her victory in her life, in reality is not real victory, but it is apparent victory.

In this novel, Jeffrey Eugenides seems to give a description that freedom can make you feel happiness or sadness, and also make you destroyed. The freedom does not see with whom and other factors somebody falls because freedom is one word that has similar meaning to every body no matter where somebody comes from. Lux also has the falls freedom for her life, although she was fail to get freedom for her life and then choice to suicide, but it was given us some important think that everyone want freedom for their life and parent will also support what they children want in their life as that a good for them, not curb them in full protection cause will affect the children frustration in their daily life then make some unbelievable choice like suicides.

Thus, from explanation above it can be concluded that *The Virgin Suicides* novel is the tragic novel that has tragic ending life between Lux and her Sisters. Beside that, it has correlation between *The Virgin Suicides* novel with the psychoanalytic theory.

References

Barnet, John. 1963. *An introduction to Literature: Fiction, Poetry, and Drama*. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company.

Freud, Sigmund. 1985. *Theories of Psychology*. Middesex: Penguin Books.

Pervin, Lawrence A. 1984. *Personality*. New York: John Willey & Sons, Inc.

Pervin, Lawrence A, and Oliver P. John. 1997. Personality Theory and Research.
Koeswara 1991, Personality Theory
Eugenides, Jeffrey. The Virgin Suicides, Canada: Harper Collins Canada Ltd First edition, 1993
Copley, Gregory. R. 2006. *The Art of Victory*. New York: A Division of Simon & Schuster, Inc.

VIRTUAL REFFERENCE

<http://virginsuicide.weebly.com/resolution.html> accsesed 4/4/2016

<http://www.shmoop.com/the-virgin-suicides/lux-lisbon.html> accsesed 30/09/2016

<http://www.ideationizing.com/2009/06/analysis-of-virgin-suicides.html> accsesed 28/09/2016

<https://mentalpics.com/2013/10/09/the-virgin-suicides> accsesed 13/10/2016