

**MELINDA SORDINO'S VIEW TOWARDS LIFE BASED ON
HER STORY IN LAURIE HALSE ANDERSON'S NOVEL
"SPEAK" (1999) : FEMINIST APPROACH**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
For Getting Bachelor Degree of Education in English Department
School Teacher Training and Education**

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APPROVAL

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Herewith, I testify that there is no plagiarism in this article publication. There is no other work that has been submitted to obtain the bachelor degree and as far as I concerned there is no opinion that has been written or published before, except the written reference which are referred in this paper and mentioned in the bibliography.

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The Researcher



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Abstrak

Penelitian ini memfokuskan pada analisis cara pandang Melinda Sordino terhadap hidupnya di novel *Speak* dari Laurie Halse Anderson (1999) berdasarkan pendekatan feminisme. Penelitian ini bersifat kualitatif. Tujuan penelitian ini untuk menganalisis cara pandang perempuan terhadap hidupnya di novel *Speak* (1999). Penelitian ini mengambil data primer dan sekunder. Novel *Speak* (1999) merupakan data primer, dan data sekunder diambil dari buku-buku, jurnal dan sumber internet berdasarkan novel *Speak* (1999). Penulis menganalisis penelitian ini tentang analisis Melinda Sordino yang memiliki cara pandang berbeda karena ia adalah seorang korban pemerkosaan dan analisis feminist berdasarkan novel ini. Penelitian ini berdasarkan pendekatan feminisme yang terdiri dari peran wanita, partisipasi wanita, posisi wanita, dan hak wanita. Kesimpulan dari penelitian ini adalah pendekatan feminist berkolerasi dengan cara pandang Melinda Sordino yang menceritakan hidupnya dan memperjuangkan kebebasannya dalam novel ini.

Kata Kunci: Melinda Sordino, Pemerkosaan, Kebebasan, Feminism

Abstract

This study concentrates on the analysis of Melinda Sordino's view towards her life in *Speak* novel by Laurie Halse Anderson novel (1999) based on the feminist approach. This research is qualitative. The purpose of this study is to analyze Melinda Sordino's view towards lives in the *Speak* novel (1999). This study conducts the data source with primary and secondary data. *Speak* novel (1999) is primary data, and secondary data is taken from books, journals and internet sources relevated to the *Speak* novel (1999). The researcher analyzes this study about the analysis of Melinda Sordino who has a different view of life because she is a victim of rape and feminist analysis based on this novel. This research is related to feminist approach consists of women's roles, women's participation, women's position, and women's rights. The result of this study is the feminist approach correlates with Melinda Sordino's view that tells her life and struggle for her freedom in this novel.

Keywords: Melinda Sordino, Rape, Freedom, Feminism

1. INTRODUCTION

Feminism is a theory that points for equality between men and women. This theory is intended to change the assumptions that have developed in society. Feminism believes that women have the ability to be compared to men. In society, women are considered as backward people who have no role and position

in various institutions. Even in certain areas, women are classified as human beings who have work at home. Various homework such as cooking, washing, taking care of children, and doing other things at home. This greatly limits women in moving. Women will not find progress in other strata of life, such as high education, freedom for give opinion, etc.

This phenomenon is what makes women like being excluded from various social lives. Men are often preoccupied with activities outside the home, while women are in the opposite. Women are limited by rules that indirectly develop in society. Many women who do not have the motivation to continue their education. as a result they also do not have the opportunity to get decent jobs such as in offices or large institutions.

Over time, women are able to rebel and show their achievements. Besides being adept at their duties at home, women can also be relied on in people's lives. Many women now have brilliant careers. It is this run who can prove that a woman can be relied on. Through these women, they can become mothers for future generations.

Even so, there are still many areas or ancient societies that adhere to the old ideology. They still believe that men and women are very different degrees. Even though not all people believe like that. But things like this are still many we find in the suburbs, inland areas, and low economic community level.

Life is important for every creature on this earth. Life is not just breathing, eating, drinking. But life can be meaningful if someone has activities with other individuals to interact in their daily lives. Every human being has the right to fill his or her life. humans are also obliged to maintain the privacy of others. All this is done to respect each other in living life on this earth. Humans are free to argue, move according to their choices and conscience without pressure from any party in accordance with applicable norms.

Humans use their lives with various things. Many people misuse life and waste time on unskilled things. There are also those who are always preoccupied with things by interacting with many people in the fields, social, economic, political, etc. Various things can be done by humans to fill their lives. Humans are free to fill their lives without disturbing the lives of others. This law goes so far

that humans can live with mutual help, respect, mutual respect and mutual acceptance.

From explanation above, The researcher will try to analyze about Melinda Sordino as the Major character of *Speak* novel. *Speak* is a fiction novel by Laurie Halse Anderson. This novel was published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux. The first edition on October 22nd 1999, it contains 197 pages (first edition). This novel tell about the girl who have trauma for communicating with others. Melinda felt pressured by the response of her friends who were not good enough to her. Melinda does not get the right of freedom on her. Melinda tries to solve the fear that is in her. Melinda also tried to express the emotions she had been hiding and closed tightly. And then, Melinda have to survive to struggeling her life. In fact, trauma is afamiliar disability in society because various case because any factors, as Simund Freud highlighted that all important experience since childhood is kept in mind and influences through and behavior when adulthood (Ryan,2011:129).

Laurie Halse Anderson illustrates Melinda as the major character who tells a figure with pressure. Melinda is so determined to fight fear to talk with other people. Melinda is not completely mute. But Melinda only speaks at the moment that she feels it is necessary to make a sound. even though his voice was very soft. *Speak* novel can be categorized as a feminism novel because Melinda as the major character is told as a formidable woman who managed to solve her fear.

Speak also explains Melinda facing difficulties every day. Melinda underwent activities by confining herself in her room, she also became a person who was alone in school and her environment. Melinda is depressed and has no passion for life. He had to deal with people around her who thought she was strange and not approachable. Some feel Melinda is a strange attitude because they don't know what causes it. However, there are also those who feel Melinda's attitude causes hatred because they have a misunderstanding with Melinda. The conflict between Melinda and her friends begin with the end of summer party at their school, Merryweather High.

Melinda is a victim by her senior, Andy Evans. *Speak* is a simple story written to describe the figure of Melinda who struggles to turn into a brave person. Initially, Melinda felt Andy trapped her at a party. Until he felt scared and

called the police. But when the police arrived, the party became chaotic and it was Melinda who was accused of making trouble at the party. Melinda was eager to explain the misunderstanding, but she could not find those words. Melinda is depressed.

In *Speak* novel, Melinda is a figure who can be seen from her struggle to get freedom for her life. Eventhough Melinda is school gets bullies from other students, she tries to stay get education under these pressures. *Speak* novel tells about how Melinda experienced her bitter journey of life. Melinda was a brave figure, even though she was in a trap and there was a rape, Melinda could be free and run away. And after that melinda's life turned dark. Melinda's courage is what needs to be appreciated as the role of women. Besides that, Melinda's courage to rush spontaneously to call the police for the abuse she received also included actions that could be considered as part of Melinda's courage to seek refuge. After Melinda's pressure begin, she met Mr. Freeman. He is a teacher in the art class. Melinda's changes begin when Mr. Freeman gave Melinda room to tell what was felt through art. Melinda was indirectly forced by Mr. Freeman to express through the work she created. Mr. Freeman felt Melinda had a lot of problems that she didn't know how to solve. Mr. Freeman is a character who plays a role in transforming Melinda into someone who does not always close herself from her environment. For Mr. Freeman, every human being must live with the truth of life. Melinda is struggle to continue her work. Finally, she managed to get rid of all hes pressure and fear. Melinda managed to become a brave figure to reveal the misunderstandings that have occurred so far. Melinda managed to tells what caused the chaos at the end of summer party. Not only that, Melinda also managed to tell her friend, Rachel Bruin that Andy Evan was the one who had trapped and raped her. Melinda speaks.

2. METHOD

In analyzing Melinda Sordino's view in *Speak* novel (1999), the research avail this study with qualitative study. The study does not data calculation or data statistic. Type of data of this study is tactual data. For conduct the data, the researcher using primary and secondary data. The *Speak* novel (1999) by Laurie

Halse Anderson is primary data source of this study and others sources are internet sources, article, and books related of this novel and this novel is secondary data. The formal object of this research is few books and sources discussing about view of life to struggling the freedom. The material object of this research is *Speak* novel (1999) by Laurie Halse Anderson. Technique and method of collecting the data of this study, first the researcher reading and knowing *Speak* novel quickly, write the important information in the novel, determining the theory and the characters of this novel, classifying data, then making conclusion and suggestion after analysis the novel. The object of this study is analysis how Melinda Sordino as major character has view of life in the novel and analyze the novel related to feminist approach.

3. RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Melinda Sordino's Life Analysis

The *Speak* novel represented the view of Melinda Sordino as the major character toward her life. Melinda is young star in *Speak* novel. She is fourteen years-old and She is a student. Since she is also the narator. Everything we learn about the character is filtered through her.

This novel does not tell how Melinda was as a child. But Melinda is described as a girl who was originally intelligent, talented and like other girls. Melinda is a student who has many friends in her school, she is also a person who is easy to make friends with her peers.

The researcher analyzes that Melinda as the major character of the *Speak* novel has pressure and problem on herself because something than happened in her past. So that she turns into a closed person and she starts to silence, does not talk and closes herself with her environment. Also, She is not tell with her parents about her conditions.

Melinda is a rape victim by her senior, Andy Evans. *Speak* is a simple story written to describe the figure of Melinda who struggles to transform into a brave person. Initially, Melinda felt Andy trapped her at a party. Until She felt scared and called the police. But when the police arrived, the party got messed up and it was Melinda who was accused of being a

troublemaker at the party. Melinda was eager to explain the misunderstanding, but she could not find the words. Melinda depressed.

Speak describe the major character about struggle freedom for a rape victim. The major character describe the value of feminism. Speak told how Melinda spurred herself to survive her life. Melinda motivates readers who might be the same as her to rise. Melinda is spirit begin when she was interested in taking art classes seriously. For Melinda, the art class was the space for her to take out her expression. With the help of his teacher, Mr. Freeman. Melinda is required to move her soul to give emotion to her artwork. Eventhough it is not easy because Melinda keeps closing herself. And with patience Mr. Freeman, Melinda was able to find freedom of expression through her artwork. Melinda sounding voice through a painting. Painting about the picture of freedom. She gave up all her expressions to be free and let go of all the pressure that had been locking her. Then, Melinda speaks again. Melinda proved that a rape victim like herself could continue her life. Melinda still has breath and has the right to work. Melinda also proved that the pressure that had existed in her was able to defeat her. Melinda changed her life to be brave woman. Also Melinda changes her view toward life, from a life full of fear, under pressure and far from freedom become happy and meaningful life. As a woman, Melinda has the same opportunity, environmental, social rights as men.

3.2 Feminist Analisis

Speak novel shows that there is no separated position between men and women. It is equal. It represented the major characters. The major characters in this novel are Melinda Sordino. Melinda is forced into the worst year of her life.

In women position, the researcher find Melinda realized that her life had not ended here. Melinda spurred herself to rise and bury the bitterness she had experienced in the past. Melinda is a well-trained female figure with many lessons in her life. Melinda is still alive. Melinda still has a future. Melinda is young and has to move on to realize all her dreams.

At the end of the section on this novel. Explained by the author of this novel, that Melinda succeeded in changing her life. Melinda managed to get rid of her fear. Also, Melinda defeated the pressure that had depressed her. Melinda become a brave person. Melinda realized that the dark past needed to be buried deep without being reopened.

In women's role, Melinda is depicted as a figure who speaks the truth. Melinda has revealed what really happened in the past.

"I must talk to Rachel. I can't do it in algebra," (SPEAK, 1999: 180).

Melinda has managed to resolve the misunderstanding that occurred at the party. And all of Melinda's friends turned to empathize with her. Now, Melinda changes her view of life. For her a life filled with fear and pressure, turned into full of courage and color like the artwork she made.

In women right's, the researcher find that the fact that Melinda is a victim of rape is an undeniable thing. But, Melinda must fight for her freedom. Melinda tries to tell Rachel about who Andy Evans is. Melinda must speak up. Melinda must defeat the fear that haunts her. Melinda must motivate herself to jump from the black zone which has been destroying her courage and world.

In women's participation, the researcher find when Melinda start to speak again. Melinda proof that she is a smart student and she can contributed herself on school activities.

The Speak novel tells that women have an equal in social. Melinda aware that she is a rape victim. However, She can still live. She can still continue her life. She still has self-esteem. Melinda must realize that her life is now more valuable and she must take care better.

4. CONCLUSION

After analyze this novel, the researcher make conclusion in two parts:

The first based on Melinda's Life Analysis, the researcher can be conclude that Melinda Sorbino as the major character of Speak novel describes and tells how she is struggling to get freedom of her pressure, while she is a rape victim. Speak

novel explain that Melinda's life every day. Melinda was depressed and closed herself because of the events that had happened in her past. She was trapped and raped by his senior at the end of summer party. Then, Melinda feel scared and spontaneously called the police, but after the police arrived, Melinda was accused of being a destroyer at that party. After that incident, Melinda lost the courage to speak up. Melinda becomes quite, full of pressure, self-confinement, and alone. Laurie Halse Anderson as the author of this novel tells its novel like as a true story. Laurie tells Melinda, the major character in the novel struggling to get through her difficult times. Melinda as a rape victim, she felt injustice sided with her. She was blamed for the chaos at the end of summer party. However, no one wants to know an explanation of why Melinda called the police at that time, Melinda lost all her words. Melinda also loses confidence and courage. But at the end of the story, Melinda meet her freedom. Melinda has the power to break her fear and she can speak again.

Melinda is depicted as a figure who speaks the truth. Melinda has revealed what really happened in the past. Melinda has managed to resolve the misunderstanding that occurred at the party. And all of Melinda's friends turned to empathize with her. Now, Melinda changes her view of life. For her a life filled with fear and pressure, turned into full of courage and color like the artwork she made.

The second is based on feminist analysis, the researcher finds that the basic concept of feminist in this novel, namely the women's position, women's role, women's rights, and women's participation. In women position the researcher finds in Speak novel, there are a real position to be a women, and the position based on gender. In women's role, the reseacher finds in this novel, there is a role women to be a women its depicted in Melinda Sordino character. And women's right, the researcher finds in the Speak novel, there are women's right depicted in the novel. It describes in the major character Melinda Sordino. She have comparable right in society, she can find her freedom and life like others although she is rape victim. The fourth basic concept of feminist is women's participation in Speak novel is when Melinda get self-confidence again in her life, then she does activities at her school and environment without fear or depression. From the

description, the researcher concludes that this novel provides lessons and values that women must be able to fight for their rights and lives. From Melinda, readers can agree that the victims of rape are victims. they still have the right to continue their lives with the legal freedom embedded in them. they have the right to breathe the same air as other humans.

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