

**EXTRAMARITAL AFFAIR IN ELLE NEWMARK'S
THE SANDALWOOD TREE (2011):
A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE**



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

by:

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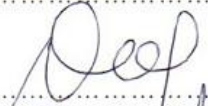
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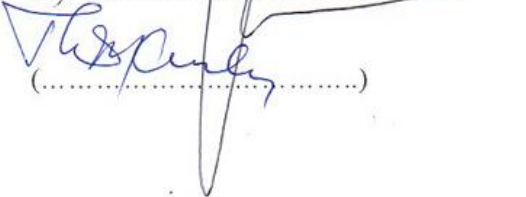
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The Researcher



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Abstrak

Penelitian ini berfokus pada isu hubungan di luar nikah/perselingkuhan yang terdapat pada novel *The Sandalwood Tree* karya Elle Newmark (2011). Penelitian ini menggunakan metode pengumpulan data secara dokumentasi. Penelitian ini ditujukan untuk menganalisis penyebab-penyebab hubungan di luar nikah/perselingkuhan yang terdapat pada novel, bagaimana isu extramarital affair digambarkan oleh penulis, dan alasan penulis memilih tema hubungan luar nikah/perselingkuhan. Peneliti menggunakan dua sumber data dalam penelitian ini yaitu data primer dan data sekunder. Novel *The Sandalwood Tree* sebagai data primer. Jurnal, website dan buku lain yang terkait dengan isu hubungan di luar nikah/perselingkuhan sebagai data sekunder. Terdapat tiga hasil penelitian terhadap novel ini. Pertama, terdapat tujuh penyebab hubungan di luar nikah/perselingkuhan di dalam novel ini yaitu patah hati, perjudohan, terputusnya emosional, tidak memiliki anak, kesepian, membutuhkan teman dan ketertarikan fisik. Kedua, pengarang menyampaikan gagasan tentang hubungan di luar nikah/perselingkuhan melalui karakter, kejadian, setting, dan style yang terdapat pada novel. Ketiga, pengarang memilih tema hubungan di luar nikah/perselingkuhan berdasarkan pada perjalanannya, dan pendapatnya tentang hubungan di luar nikah/perselingkuhan yang terjadi di masyarakat.

Kata Kunci: Hubungan di luar nikah/perselingkuhan, Elle Newmark dan sosiologi sastra

Abstract

This research focuses on extramarital affair issue delineated in *The Sandalwood Tree* novel (2011) by Elle Newmark. The perspective that is used in analyzing this novel is theory of sociology. This research uses documentation method to collect the data. This research is conducted to analyze the causes of extramarital affair in the novel, how the extramarital affair is depicted in the novel, and the reason of the author in addressing extramarital affair issue. The researcher uses primary and secondary data source. *The Sandalwood Tree* novel is the primary data source. Other journal, website and book that relate the issue of extramarital affair are the secondary data source. There are three main findings in this research. First, there are found seven causes of extramarital affair in the novel namely broken hearts, arranged marriage, emotional disconnection, childlessness, loneliness, need for companionship, and physical attraction. Second, the author depicted extramarital affair in *The Sandalwood Tree* novel through character, event, setting, and style in the novel. Third, the author address the extramarital affair issue based on her travels and her response to extramarital affair case that occurs in society.

Keywords: Extramarital Affair, *The Sandalwood Tree*, Sociology of literature

1. INTRODUCTION

The major issue of this research is about extramarital affair reflected in *The Sandalwood Tree* novel. According to Vocabulary.com, “Extramarital Affair describes relationships that happen outside of a marriage, between two people who aren’t married to each other. From a different perspective, it also applies to a single person having sex with a married person”. It means that extramarital affair can occur when a married person has an unhappy relationship with his or her spouse. Elle Newmark writes a novel named *The Sandalwood Tree* which tells about extramarital affair issue. This issue also has been observed by some researcher by taking samples in society by using field research and involving participants in several regions with varying ages. The researcher finds nine researches that related to the issue. These previous studies can be classified into three groups, namely the first is giving emphasis on the theoretical concepts of infidelity. The research included in this group is the research from Fan and Lui, 2014; Moller and Vossler, 2014. The second is focused on online infidelity. The research included in this group is the research from Vossler, 2016; Mao and Raguram, 2018; The third is emphasis on the dilemma of infidelity couples. The research included in this group is the research from Gordon, Baucom and Snyder, 2004; Atkins, 2005; Agrawal and Shah, 2009; Ram, Raman and Gowdappa, 2019.

Gordon, Baucom and Synder (2004) explained that extramarital affair occurs very often and become the most common problem in the therapy. The data of this research were taken from the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago. This study was designed using a case study method to treat patients recovering from their extramarital affair using integrative medicine. The results of this study states that z-score for pre-treatment, post-treatment and follow up. At the end of treatment, most of the couples who underwent this therapy felt marital and emotionally depressed. Injured couples admitted that they can forgive their partners who have cheated on them. Atkins (2005) described the therapy of infidelity couples. The data were collected through 19 couples who had committed an affair and participated in a randomized clinical therapy trial at the University of Washington Seattle. Evidence of this study is that couples who have had an extramarital affair

and who admit this affair before or after doing therapy show a greater increase in satisfaction than couples who have never committed an affair. The results of this study revealed that couples who cared for and care for them feel more stressed than couples who do not cheat. Agrawal and Shah (2019) analyzed new facts, perspectives and strategies that can be useful while working with EMI or also known as 'extramarital involvement'. It focuses on two parts of EMI issues in clinical setting: Part one gives information which can help clinicians to differentiate and to document extramarital involvement issue more accurately. Part two is about guidelines for therapy with couples who have the same issue. The results revealed that therapy process and outcome are influenced by patients' skills, attributes and beliefs of the therapist, and influences that come from outside therapy such as support from family, friends and others. Fan and Lui (2014) explained how the perceived changes of marriage quality affect marital stability ending in divorce. The data was collected by Caritas Family Service, a social welfare agency with financial support from the Hong Kong Government. The samples of this data were chosen from those receiving counselling on extramarital issues in the Caritas Family between January 1st 1994 and April 1st 1995 since the worst problem that happened at that time in Hong Kong was extramarital affair. The result shows that the divorce rate slowly decreases with religion, age and educational level. Moller and Vossler (2014) analyzed the definition of infidelity from seven experienced couple counselors based on their work with heterosexual couples presenting with the issue. Thematic analysis used in this study as a method to analyze the research findings and interview transcripts to the definitions of infidelity for couple counselors and patients. The result shows that there are four definitions of infidelity and their perspective about infidelity based on the research findings and interview transcript such as infidelity as sexual behaviors, infidelity as secrets and betrayal, infidelity as penetrative sex, and emotional infidelity. Vossler (2016) described a critical review of literature on Internet infidelity published in the last 10 years. The purpose of this research is to present the current state of knowledge in this field compared to the situation in 2006. The review includes theoretical papers and article publications about the definition of internet infidelity, the factors of internet infidelity, the impact

of internet infidelity and therapy for internet infidelity. Parker and Campbell (2017) analyzed the racial differences in the association and society between attachment style and EDI or also known as 'extradyadic involvement'. The study found that high attachment avoidance of fearful and dismissing described as a risk factor for EDI among Black participants/ African American, whereas an inverse relationship between fearful attachment and EDI was revealed among the sample of White participants/ European. The results of this study indicated that attachment approaches must take cultural values and beliefs into consideration among infidelity couples. Mao and Raguram (2018) explained the negative impact of online infidelity on relationship and its effect on the mental health of the offended spouse. This study used case vignette to discuss the importance of marital therapy in dealing with the factors of online infidelity and in rebuilding marital trust. The data were collected through a 29-year-old married woman as a participant. The participant had been diagnosed with moderate depression, presented for therapy following the discovery of her husband's infidelity chat with his partner via online since the last six months. This study used the therapist 'psycho-educated' for her husband. The results revealed that the therapy had a positive impact on their relationship.

Based on the previous studies above it is know that some researchers observed extramarital affair case by taking samples in society by using field research and involving participants in several regions with varying ages. Extramarital affair not only can be analyzed through field research but also through literature, one of which is through novel. In this research, the writer more interested to analyzed extramarital affair from a novel entitled *The Sandalwood Tree* novel (2011) by Elle Newmark.

The perspective that the researcher uses in conducting this study is sociological perspective. This perspective will be used to analyzed the relationship of the work of literature with the sociology of the writer, sociology of the society and the sociology of the reader. It becomes an important point because the literary work cannot be separated with its author and social background. In a literary work, there is a link between the text and the background of its writing (Laurenson &

Swingerwood, 1972, p.13). It can be concluded that the existence of literary work of literature has relationship with the aspect of social life.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

In this research, the researcher conducts a study of qualitative research. Qualitative research is concerned in explaining social phenomena and concerned with the social aspect which purposed to help people to understand the world of society (Hancock, 2009, p.7). The main that is discussed in this research is about extramarital affair. The primary data source of this research is *The Sandalwood Tree* novel written by Elle Newmark published in 2011. Then the secondary data sources are other sources which have relation to the study such as some books, dictionaries, and websites that support the analysis. The steps of collecting the data that is done by the researcher are classified into seven steps those are read *The Sandalwood Tree* novel carefully and full of appreciation, identifying the important point of the novel, determining the issue and the major character that will be analyzed, figure out the information in both primary data and secondary data source, arranging the data based on the classification, analyzing the data on theory sociology of literature, drawing conclusion and giving suggestion based on the analysis data. Then the data that have been collected are analyzed by using sociological perspective with three main steps of technique in analyzing the data from Miles and Huberman including data reduction, data display and verification (Miles and Huberman, 1994).

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3. 1 The Causes of Extramarital Affair

Based on the data that the researcher finds in the novel, the causes of extramarital affair in the novel are broken hearts, arranged marriage, emotional disconnection, childlessness, loneliness, need for companionship, and physical attraction.

3.1.1 Broken Hearts

Broken hearts is a very deep feeling of hurt that someone experiences. Broken hearts can occur if someone experiences disappointment, heartbreak, betrayal, etc. All began since Felicity broke up with her boyfriend, Percy. She was very disappointed and lonely. She did not think that her lover, Percy refused to kiss her. She decided to go to India to refresh her mind, joining Fishing Fleet, Indian festivals and bazaars. She really loves India. One day, Felicity met the Indian military men, Jonathan Singh in an orphanage. He made Felicity's heart tremble often when she met him. Jonathan is a dignified and charismatic man. Felicity fell in love with him and hoped that one day she could marry him. (p.166).

3.1.2 Arranged Marriage

Arranged marriage is a marriage whose bride is the bride chosen by the parents and the bride's family. In India, arranged marriage still remained the majorly preferred way for Indians to enter into matrimony. By knowing that Jonathan was married did not make Felicity despair. Precisely she even got more spirit approaching him. She knows that the marriage system in India is implemented by way of arranged marriage. According to her, he was already married, but perhaps he did not really love his wife since their marriage is not based on love for each other, but because of arranged marriage and his first meeting with his wife is when the wedding ceremony. Day after day passed, her love for him was unstoppable, with determination and hope that one day her dream to marry him can come true. It is shown in the conversation when Felicity asked Jonathan if he really loves his wife or not. Jonathan became interested with Felicity since she is different with another white woman he had met before (p.166). Eventually, their love story continued and he took her go away from India, leaving his wife. They finally end up in a relationship up to the marriage level and had a son, named Charles William.

3.1.3 Emotional Disconnection

Emotional disconnection is a lack of communication between couple that causes a loose relationship. Emotional disconnection in this novel reflected in the family of Jonathan and his wife, Makali. His position as a military man requires him to live in a military dorm. He had to lived separated to Makali and only allowed to go home every three months or every six months. At that time, it was very rare and almost never Jonathan communicated with his wife. This lack of communication made those who were originally married by arranged marriage, arranged by their parents and met at the first time in wedding ceremony made the distance between them even farther away, chances are they will get emotionally disconnected from each other as a couple and start getting emotionally connected with someone else.

3.1.4 Childlessness

Childlessness is a couple who has been married for so long but has not been blessed with a child. Childlessness in this novel represented through a married couple Jonathan and Makali. Rarely to meet and to communicate with each other was also the reason why they are not blessed with a child. The absence of a child who ties their marriage was also the reason why Jonathan had an extramarital affair with Felicity. Jonathan even more often meets and communicates with Felicity than Makali. The love story between Jonathan and Felicity continued, and after some time, Felicity gave birth to a child from Jonathan named Charles William (pp. 253 & 306). Therefore, he has chosen Felicity and wanted to continue his life with Felicity and decided to leave India with Felicity and left Makali (pp. 247, 257 & 258). So, childlessness that occurs to Jonathan and Makali is one of the causes of extramarital affair in this novel.

3.1.5 Loneliness

Loneliness is a feeling of lonely experienced by someone. It can happen if someone feels lonely and alone because they are left by friends or spouse, do not have friends or spouse, or rarely meet friends or spouse. Loneliness in this novel was felt by Jonathan and Felicity. Broke up with her boyfriend, Percy made her single again. She wanted to cheer herself up and for a moment run away from reality by visiting India to have fun by participating in Fishing Fleet and other Indian Festivals (p. 77). At the same time, Jonathan also felt loneliness. As a military man, he had to stay in the military dorm separated with his wife and doing monotonous military activities for every single day. They were both lonely, they first met in the orphanage, got to know each other, often met and communicated, they slowly felt attracted to each other and extramarital affair occurs between them (pp. 168-171).

3.1.6 Need for Companionship

Need for companionship is a feeling of wanting to have friends or someone who can be invited to share stories, share experiences or to live life together every day. This can occur if someone is experiencing loneliness. In this novel both Jonathan and Felicity, they need for companionship each other. Felicity need for companionship for cheering up herself after broke up with Percy (pp. 76-78). At the same time, Jonathan also need for companionship. In the midst of dense and monotonous military activities, Jonathan needs someone who can accompany him to go through all that or even just talk with him while relaxing, so he can share the stories he experiences every day. Until one day he met Felicity and she invited him to be friends (pp. 169).

3.1.7 Physical Attraction

Physical attraction is the feeling of liking someone's physical appearance. It can be from the way someone talked, the way someone walked, the way someone dressed, the shape of someone face, the posture of someone body, etc. Since Felicity was different from his

wife, everything changed. Unlike his wife, Makali is a traditional woman of Indian descent, who is so traditional, uses saree every single day, undergoes traditional ceremonies and Hindu Indian culture with a monotonous life (pp. 84&85). Intense meetings with Felicity made everything changes. Her behavior also had changed Jonathan's view of her. Until one day, he looked at her and told her that he was interested in her since she was different from other white western girls and he also thought about her all the time (p. 168).

3.2 Depiction of Extramarital Affair

Extramarital affair in the novel are depicted through character, event, setting and style.

3.2.1 Character

Characters that support the issue of extramarital affair in the novel are divided into five categories, they are lonely character, curious housewife, childless wife, flirting expatriate, and separated couple.

3.2.1.1 Lonely Character

There are two characters which are included in the lonely character, they are Felicity Chadwick and Jonathan Singh. In this novel, Felicity's character is the character who loneliness and needing companionship. Since she broke up with her boyfriend Percy, she had to continue her life every single day without a boyfriend. She was very disappointed and lonely. To cheer up herself from disappointment, sadness and loneliness, she decided to take a vacation to India. She wanted to join Indian Festivals and bazaars (pp.76-77). Just like Felicity, Jonathan character's also the characters who feel lonely and needs a companionship in his life. His position as a military man made him had to live in the military dorm every single day. He lived separated from his wife, Makali. This makes him very rare to meet his wife, coupled with a lack of communication between

them. Occasionally he needs someone who can be invited to tell, discuss and joke to eliminate fatigue from military activities.

3.2.1.2 Curious Housewife

The character that belongs to curious housewife is Evie Mitchell. Since she found the packet of old letter behind the brick wall in the bungalow, she felt extremely curious and continued to read the old letter one by one every day (p.11). She reads, connects the sentences written on the letters, combined them into a whole sentence. She was also very curious about the story of Felicity Adela and Jonathan. To prove her curiosity, she searched for information regarding the bungalow she was living in at that time, the writer's relationship with the bungalow, made a pilgrimage to the Adela's funeral, finding out about the sandalwood tree in the bungalow, bringing the old letters to the Historical Society to be immortalized, until it ended in Evie who buried her life journal under the sandalwood tree with the aim someday someone else would find her letters (p.356).

3.2.1.3 Childless Wife

The character that belongs to childless wife is Makali. Since she married with Jonathan Singh, she hasn't blessed with a child. The factors of childless in this couple are lack of communication and emotionally disconnected each other.

3.2.1.4 Flirting Expatriate

In this novel, flirting expatriate character belongs to Felicity Chadwick. By knowing that Jonathan was married with Makali did not makes her despair. Precisely she even got more spirit approaching him. She knows that the marriage system in India is implemented by way of arranged marriage. According to her, he was already married, but perhaps he did not really love his wife since their marriage is not based on love for each other, but because of arranged marriage and his first meeting with his wife

is when the wedding ceremony. Day after day passed, her love for him was unstoppable, with determination and hope that one day her dream to marry him can come true (p.171). He became interested with Felicity since she is different with another white woman he had met before (p.166). Eventually, their love story continued and he took her go away from India, leaving his wife. They finally ended up in a relationship up to the marriage level and had a son, named Charles William.

3.2.1.5 Separated Couple

Separated couple belongs to the couple Jonathan Singh and Makali. As a military man, Jonathan had to stay in the military dorm separated with his wife (pp.168-171).

3.2.2 Setting

The researcher separates the setting into two categories they are England, the country where Felicity lived before she went to India, and India, the country where Jonathan, Evie Mitchell and Martin lived.

3.2.2.1 Orphanage

Orphanage in this novel as the place which Felicity met Jonathan for the first time (p.165). Felicity also went to an orphanage since she wanted to be useful. Her trip to India was not only to join Indian festival and bazaars but also visited children in orphanage. On the other hand, Jonathan had to guard the orphanage since it was needed and the scots were willing. (p.170).

3.2.2.2 Dormitory

In this novel, the dormitory where Jonathan stayed was a large room with many beds and even multi-level so that it can be accommodated by many people in the room. In his dorm, one room consists of two bunk beds and was occupied by four people (p.171).

3.2.2.3 England

In this novel England as the country where Felicity lived before she went to India for a tour (pp.22-28). She was from a rich family, lived with her mother, Lady Chadwick in a big house like a palace that was many servants and also a special nanny hired for her.

3.2.2.4 Masoorla

Masoorla is the name of small village in Calcutta, India where Evie and his husband, Martin lived when they moved to India (p.5). Martin and Evie have to stay in a bungalow in Masoorla, a small village in north India since the university chose that bungalow for them because it had an attached kitchen instead of the usual cookhouse out back.

3.2.3 Event

The events that the researcher finds as the moment of the occurrence of extramarital affair are pursuing doctoral degree, choosing a place to stay, constructing a pieces of puzzles, immortalize the old letters, inspired by the story of Adela and Felicity and the silent witness.

3.2.3.1 Pursuing Doctoral Degree

The story began when Martin, Evie's husband achieved Senator Fullbright scholarships program to study abroad. He is a historian writing his Ph.D. thesis on the politics of modern India, to document the end of the British Raj. At the end of March in 1947, they arrived in India.

3.2.3.2 Choosing a Place to Stay

Martin and Evie have to stay in Masoorla, a small village in north India. They rented a bungalow in Masoorla since the university chose that bungalow for them because it had an attached kitchen instead of the usual cookhouse out back (pp.3-7).

3.2.3.3 Constructing the Pieces of Puzzles

One morning in the bungalow when Evie cleaned the house, she found a packet of folded letters tied with a faded and bedraggled blue ribbon behind a brick wall. She was very curious to know what was written on the old letters, she read them and exploring the hidden letters. To make sure that the letters was true or not, she went to the Adela Winfield's funeral. After knowing that what was written on the letter was true, she continues to exploring the love story between Felicity and Jonathan. After they read all the journal of Adela and Felicity, she wanted to immortalize it by donated it to the Historical Society to immortalize the letters. Evie had been inspired after read all the story of Adela and Felicity They lived for joy and it was beautiful. Evie also have been keeping her own journal with Martin since she came to India. After she wrote her own journal, she decided to leave it in the sandalwood tree. She wanted the sandalwood tree as a silent witness of her journal with Martin. Even though it was corny, but Martin liked the idea of leaving their journal in the sandalwood tree.

3.2.4 Style

3.2.4.1 Sentence Construction

This novel uses a language which is simple, to the point and easy to understand by the reader.

3.2.4.2 Diction

The diction that used in this novel is high frequency of usage that almost people used the words in daily conversation and no need to search the meaning of the words in a dictionary.

3.2.4.3 Figurative Language

This novel used figurative language metaphor. Elle included metaphor in one of Felicity's letter to Adela. She described that her first pang fear came when "the benign waves rose up

like sea monsters,” each one bigger than the last, until they virtually blocked the sky”.

3.2.5 Symbol

3.2.5.1 The Sandalwood Tree

This novel also uses a symbol *The Sandalwood Tree* which is also the title of this novel. The Sandalwood Tree in this novel as a place and a silent witness when Felicity buried the journal of her life in *The Sandalwood Tree*. In this novel *The Sandalwood Tree* also as a symbol of holy plant which almost Hindoos in India judge it auspicious to have one in front of the house.

3.2.5.2 Indian Marigolds

Indian Marigolds in this novel also as a universal symbol of joy which is the most of people favour marigolds for garlands & temple offerings. This was also a reason why Felicity liked marigolds and planted it under the sandalwood tree in front of the bungalow.

3.3 Reason for Addressing Extramarital Affair

There are messages that Elle Newmark wants to address related to extramarital affair that happens in society.

3.3.1 All novels written by the author was inspired by her travels

The Book of Unholy Mischief and *Bones of the Dead* is the historical fiction novel written by Elle Newmark after she visited Venice. In the *The Book of Unholy Mischief* novel, she described the detail description of Venice life, religion, politics, culinary arts, learning, culture and mischief in 1498. In the *Bones of the Dead* novel the story focuses around Luciano, a street rat and Chef Amato Ferrero. Before she wrote *The Sandalwood Tree* novel, she visited India first. The setting of time she took was in 1947 and 1857, at the end of British Raj rule.

3.3.2 The author giving her response to extramarital affair case that occurs in society by reflecting it in her novel

Extramarital affair is a case that common and always occurs in society. The rate divorce in U.S according to Divorce Statistics from year 2000-2011 from 44 States in US excludes data for Indiana, New York City, Hawaii, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Georgia.

The divorce that happen from year 2000-2007, decreased from 4.0 to 3.6 per 1.000 total populations. From year 2008-2011, increased from 3.5 to 3.6. The divorce rate in 2008-2009 was 3.5 which was the lowest rate since 2000. The highest rate was at 4.0 in the year 2000-2001. It can be concluded that the number of divorce that occurred in U.S goes down from 2000-2011. There is a close relationship between this novel and social reality. Both are related to the author's journey and the social reality that occurs in society. It can be inferred that this novel is the author's response to social reality, especially at the level of divorce that occurs in society. The statistics data in U.S from National Center for Health Statistics from year 2000-2011 above also contribute to the production of the novel.

3.4 Discussion

After analyzing the findings in *The Sandalwood Tree* novel, the researcher finds that there is a close relationship between the author's story lives with the divorce cases that occur in the society in America in the 21st century. The novel that she wrote was inspired by her travels. Before she wrote *The Sandalwood Tree* novel, she visited India first. She observed India and she found that there were also many divorce cases at that times, therefore, she connected her novel with the social reality that existed in society. Based on the theory of sociology of literature, this novel is on the one hand an expression of the author's life experience, as well as the values she adheres to. However, this novel is also a reflection of social reality and also a reflection of various elements of society (Wellek and Warren 1962: 102

and Swingerwood and Laurenson, p.21). There is also a similarity and difference between this study and the existing research. The similarity with the previous research is research from Chengze Simon Fan and Hon Kwong Lui (2014), Naomi P. Moller and Andreas Vossler (2014). The study was giving emphasis on the theoretical concepts of infidelity. The difference between this study and the existing research is the material object. The existing research analyzed extramarital affair case by taking examples in society and using field research involving participants in several regions with varying ages but this study using *The Sandalwood Tree* novel written by Elle Newmark to analyze the extramarital cases in society.

4. CONCLUSION

This part elaborates the conclusion of the analysis in the research. First, from the causes of extramarital affair. Those are broken hearts that means a very deep feeling of hurt that someone that someone experiences. Broken hearts can occur if someone experiences disappointment, heartbreak, betrayal, etc. Arranged marriage that means a marriage whose bride is the bride chosen by the parents and the bride's family. This type of marriage sometimes based on the basis of love for each bride or only to follow the ancestral customs. Emotional Disconnection that means a lack of communication between couple that causes a loose relationship. Childlessness that means Childlessness is a couple who has been married for so long but has not been blessed with a child. Loneliness that means a feeling of loneliness experienced by someone. It can happen if someone feels lonely and alone because they are left by friends or spouse, do not have friends or spouse, or rarely meet friends or spouse. Need for companionship that means a feeling of wanting to have friends or someone who can be invited to share stories, share experiences or to live life together every day. This can occur if someone is experiencing loneliness. Physical attraction that means the feeling of liking someone's physical appearance. It can be from the way someone talked, the way someone walked, the way someone dressed, the shape of someone face, the posture of someone body, etc.

The second is four things that support the extramarital affair in the novel they are characters, setting, event, and style. The characters that support the issue of extramarital affair are divided into five categories, they are lonely character mean the characters who are very disappointed and lonely, curious housewife mean the characters who felt extremely curious with the letters of Adela and Felicity, childless wife mean the characters who are not blessing with a child, flirting expatriate mean the characters who loves someone who has been married, and separated couple mean the characters who live separated each other. The place when the characters who did extramarital affair met for the first time is the orphanage and dormitory is the place where the characters who did extramarital affair met every day. The place where the old letters found is Masoorla and the place where the writer of the old letters lived before moved to India is England. The events that the researcher finds as the moment The events that the researcher finds as the moment of the occurrence of extramarital affair are pursuing doctoral degree, choosing a place to stay, constructing a pieces of puzzles, immortalize the old letters, inspired by the story of Adela and Felicity and the silent witness. The style that is found to support the extramarital affair issue in this novel are sentence construction, diction and figurative language.

The third reason of why Elle Newmark as the author of *The Sandalwood Tree* novel addressing the extramarital affair in this work. The author writes this novel that contains extramarital issue based on the author's journey and the social reality that occurs in society. It can be inferred that this novel is the author's response to social reality, especially at the level of divorce that occurs in society.

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