

**BIOMEDICAL CAUSES OF DEATH REFLECTED IN PAULA  
HAWKINS'S *THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN* (2015): A  
SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS**



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

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**2019**

**APPROVAL**

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**PUBLICATION ARTICLE**

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## **BIOMEDICAL CAUSES OF DEATH REFLECTED IN PAULA HAWKINS'S THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN (2015): A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS**

### **Abstrak**

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui sebab kematian berdasarkan medis di novel *The Girl on the Train* dengan menggunakan pendekatan sosiologi Tipe penelitian ini adalah penelitian kualitatif. Peneliti menggunakan dua tipe data yaitu primer dan sekunder. Data primer adalah novel *The Girl on the Train* yang ditulis oleh Paula Hawkins. Data sekunder adalah data yang di ambil dari website, artikel, jurnal dan sumber lain yang mendukung. Hasil dari studi yang pertama adalah mengetahui indikator sebab kematian yaitu pecahnya tengkorak, mengeluarkan banyak darah dan mulut mengeluarkan darah. Kedua adalah penggambaran novel melalui tokoh, karakter, kejadian, latar tempat dan gaya bahasa. Ketiga adalah alasan penulis dalam membuat novel tersebut yaitu keprihatinan penulis dalam suatu kasus besar yang berada di London.

**Kata Kunci :** *The Girl on the Train*, Sebab kematian, kasus kematian

### **Abstract**

This study aims to determine biomedical causes of death in the novel *The Girl on the Train* by using sociological analysis. This type of study is qualitative research. The author uses two data types namely primary data and secondary data. Primary data is *The Girl on the Train* novel by Paula Hawkins. Secondary data is data taken from website, article, journal and other sources that support the analysis. The first result of the study is to know indicator causes of death that is a clash of the head, lose a lot of blood and mouth filled with blood. Second, is depicted of a novel through character, characterization, events, setting and figurative language. The third is reason the author addressed the novel that is concerns the author to big case in London.

**Keyword :** *The Girl on the Train*, Causes of death, Death Case

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The major issue of this research is biomedical causes of death in *The Girl on the Train* (2015) written by Paula Hawkins. Death is all of the function vital like a heartbeat, brain activity, and breathing is the cessation. However, in medical definition, death is the end of life and common law standard for determining death is the cessation of all vital function, traditionally demonstrated by “absence of spontaneous respiratory and cardiac function”. According to Dorland’s illustrated in

the medical dictionary, death is the cessation of all about a vital bodily function. According to (WHO Headquarters, 2014) death is an everyday medical occurrence that has social, legal, religious and cultural consequences requiring a common clinical standard for diagnosis and legal regulation since death can vary quite widely among countries. From the definition above, it can be concluded that the medical features of a person's death. There are four researchers who discussed *The Girl on the Train* as a material object. The first research is “Anxiety and Defense Mechanism of Rachel Watson in *The Girl on the Train* novel” conducted by Atun Farkhatun, the second research is “Motive of Murder in *The Girl on the Train* novel” conducted by Karlena Widyati, the third research is “Behavior Disorder of Rachel Watson in *The Girl on the Train* novel” conducted by Hanik Wiharyanti, the fourth research is “Struggle tells the truth in *The Girl on the Train* novel” conducted by Meria Indah Rahayu.

Some researchers have researched about anxiety and defense from the novel (Atun Farkhatun, 2017) some about motive of murder from the character (Karlana Widyawati, 2017) the other about behavior disorder of the character, and the last research about struggle tells the truth of the novel (Meria Indah Rahayu, 2017). However, four research using psychoanalysis theory and focus on psychological conditions the character in the novel.

Based on the previous study, it known that there is no researcher discusses *The Girl on the Train* novel with the issue biomedical causes of death. The researcher has two reasons conducted the research. First, because the researcher wants to explain to society what are the causes of death. The second reason is that the researcher wants society critic about the murder and the readers can distinguish about natural death, killed or suicide.

The study uses a sociological analysis to conduct this research. According to *The Sociology of Literature* by Alan Swingewood (1972:11), that sociology is a study about a man in society, social processes, and social institutions. Then, sociology and literature are not distinct disciplines but the contrary, each other in the understanding of society. Alan gives three concepts about the sociology of literature they are the

sociology of writer, sociology of reader and sociology of society. This research will analyze the sociology of society. To analyze the biomedical causes of death the researcher applied sociology of literature by Alan Swingwood. Sociology of society was identified literature in social and society. Therefore, the researcher focuses on biomedical causes of death based on sociology analysis.

## **2. METHOD**

The research conducts a study of qualitative research. According to Cressweel (1994) process of understanding based on methodology traditional, that explores a human problem or a social. The issue of this research is biomedical causes of death and it is analyzed using sociological analysis. The primary data source is *The Girl on the Train* (2015) written by Paula Hawkins. It is published by Transworld Publisher in 2015. The secondary data source of this research is consists of some website, other sources such as essay, article, bibliography and dictionary to support the analysis. The researcher used library research by collecting data, and selecting both primary and secondary source in order to find comfort with the problem statement and objectives of the study. They are five steps in collecting data as follow the researcher reading the novel, a hypothesis about with the author try to show by writing this novel, finding some data related with the issue, taking a note from the source and the researcher re-check in order to avoid mistakes. The researcher uses three steps of technique in analyzing data from Miles and Hubermen (1994) they are (1) Data Reduction, (2) Data Display and (3) Conclusion Drawing and Verifying.

## **3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **3.1 Biomedical Causes of Death**

#### **3.1.1 Clash of Head**

Clash of heads is one of the causes of death because the head is very sensitive and dangerous. Clash of the head happened to Megan. Tom successful to make Megan die because he banging stone to Megan's head

### 3.1.2 Lose a lot of blood

The researcher founds one character loses a lot of blood. Lose a lot of blood happened to Megan. Megan dies because she loses a lot of blood. Megan loses a lot of blood because Tom was banging stone to Megan's head.

### 3.1.3 Mouth filled with blood

Mouth filled with blood also happened to Megan. After Tom hit her head, she feels her mouth filled with blood. If one of the five senses filled the blood, it can be causes of death.

## **3.2 Depiction of Biomedical Causes of Death**

Biomedical causes of death depicted through character, setting, event and style.

### 3.2.1 Character

The character that supports the issue of biomedical causes of death are killing a character, killed character and witnessing the character.

#### 3.2.1.1 Killing Character

Killing character is the character that kills someone. In this novel killing character is the main character and can be called as an antagonist character. Killing character in this novel is Tom.

#### 3.2.1.2 Killed Character

The killed character is the character that killed by someone. This character is a minor character in the novel. The killed character in this novel is Megan.

#### 3.2.1.3 Witnessing Character

Witnessing character is someone knows about a murder case. The researcher found the witnessing character in this novel is Megan.

### 3.2.2 Setting

There are two places the writer uses to tell this novel. The first is a field, infield Tom killing Megan. The second is forest, in the forest Tom brings Megan to the forest and he throws away Megan in the forest.



### 3.2.3 Event

There are three events created by Paula Hawkins in this novel. First, events begin when Megan was pregnant with Tom. In addition, Megan tells Tom about it and Megan asks Tom to be responsible but Tom did not care to Megan. Second, when Megan feel angry with Tom and she begins whimper to Tom, here Tom feel very piqued with Megan and he plans to kill Megan. Third, are when in the wood. After Tom kills Megan he carries Megan to the wood and Tom dig the land with his hands, this hole to bury Megan.

### 3.2.4 Style

#### 3.2.4.1 Figurative Language

A figurative Language is a form of figurative language that is used to get a more specific meaning. The researcher found figurative language that is personification.

#### 3.2.4.2 Diction

The researcher found diction in the novel that is a special term. Special term includes IVF or Vitro Fertilization and Transference.

#### 3.2.4.3 Imagery

The researcher found three imageries in the novel they are wood, boot, and rock.

## **3.3 Reason of Addressing Biomedical Causes of Death in the Novel**

Based on her blog, Paula Hawkins shared her experience why she wrote *The Girl on the Train* novel. Actually Hawkins lives in London, she always goes downtown in London almost every day by train, she always sits on the train by looking at several houses, he likes to see those houses, then she thinks and imagines if something happens between the houses like murder or violence then if someone knows the incident and other people don't know, what that person must do it, this is the reason why Hawkins wrote the novel. Based on the life experience of the author, can be inferred that Hawkins wants to make the reader aware about the biomedical causes of

death and Hawkins wants to make the readers critical about the murder and the readers can distinguish about natural death, killed or suicide.

From the CNN News, Hawkins made this novel from an incident in 2007, which is the disappearance of a little girl named Madeleine McCann. Madeline's parents reported that she disappeared in her parents' apartment when she slept with her twin sister. Madeleine's disappearance is the biggest case in England. Madeleine's case had stopped and then continued back in 2011. Judging from the case of the disappearance of a little girl in England, Hawkins wanted to tell through a novel written. Hawkins expressed his concern for the case that happened in London through a novel she wrote. In this novel, Hawkins wants to reflect social reality in England, which related concern about mystery Madeline MacCann's disappearance in 2007.

After analyzing *The Girl on the train* (2015), the researcher has found indicators of biomedical causes of death from the novel consist clash of the head, lose a lot of blood, and mouth filled with blood. Paula Hawkins uses the character to deliver her idea about the biomedical causes of death and the character classified into killing a character, killed character and witnessing character.

The *Girl on the Train* novel, Paula Hawkins novel tells to the society how to know causes of death, she wants to people realize and invite the readers to concern biomedical causes of death. Hawkins wants tells to the readers and society if learn about biomedical causes of death is important in society, because society and reader must know what the causes of death.

In addition, the author wants to show her concern to the case that happened in England that is disappearance and dead from a girl Madeleine MacCann, this case is the biggest case in England. Madeleine's case had stopped and continued back in 2011 because this case needs a lot of money and after continuing the case police England have not found bright spots. Therefore, Hawkins made the novel because she concerns about Madeleine's case. Therefore, the study is literature reflect that related to the narrative structure of social reality in England society.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

After analyzing the character in *The Girl on the Train* (2015), the researcher will reveal the conclusion of the research. First, they are much biomedical causes of death they are a clash of the head, lose a lot of blood and mouth filled with blood, they are something can cause someone death. Medically, if someone experienced an incident like this so that someone can die.

Second, they are four depictions from the novel they are thought character and characterization, setting, event, and style. Through character and characterization, they are killing a character, killed character and witnessing character. Killing character is the character that kills someone. Then killed character is the character that was killed by someone. In addition, the witnessing character is someone knows about a murder case. The setting of the novel is in the field and the forest. Then event from this novel are when Megan pregnant with Tom, Megan was angry with Tom, when they in the wood and when Rachel remember anything. The event tells about before, when it occurs and after the murder. Last, the styles of the novel are diction, image, and figurative language.

Third, the author wrote the novel because it is her experience life and she expressed about Madeleine's case in London. This case is the biggest case, this case about the disappearance of a little girl and her death. Therefore, the author feels concern with the case and she vents a feeling of concern to the novel.

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