

**GIRL'S POWER REFLECTED IN RICK YANCEY'S *THE 5TH WAVE* NOVEL (2013):
A READER'S-RESPONSE THEORY**



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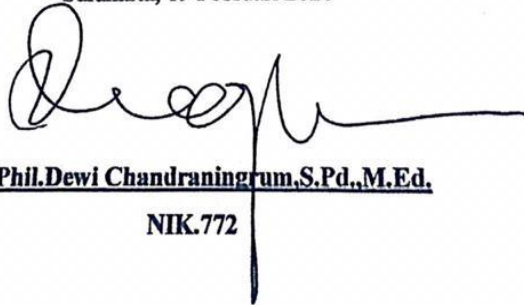
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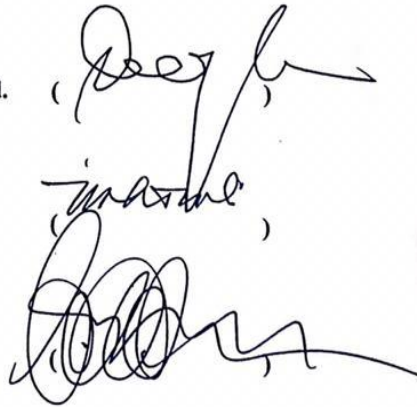
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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk .mengungkapkan isu kekuatan perempuan dan isu dominan lainnya yang diekspresikan dalam novel *The 5th Wave* yang ditulis oleh Rick Yancey. Perbedaan cara pandang diasumsikan memunculkan perbedaan seseorang dengan orang yang lainnya dalam mengulas sebuah novel. Sumber data primer berupa ulasan pembaca pada situs web *Goodreads* di novel *The 5th Wave* yang diterbitkan pada tahun 2013. Sumber data sekunder berasal dari penelitian sebelumnya yang berhubungan dengan penulisan novel yang diteliti. Penelitian ini menggunakan jenis penelitian kualitatif dimana pengumpulan data kebanyakan dari kata atau teks, dan menganalisis kata secara subjektif. Ada empat isu dominan yang ditemukan karakter dan karakterisasi, sudut pandang, plot, dan gaya penulisan novel. Pada novel *The 5th Wave* menunjukkan bagaimana penggambaran kekuatan perempuan dibawa oleh karakter utama wanita dalam novel tersebut. Ada tiga temuan dalam isu penelitian ini, yaitu kekuatan perempuan yang diwakili dengan karakter kemandirian, kepercayaan diri, dan pemberdayaan.

Kata Kunci: goodreads, kekuatan wanita, respons pembaca, the 5th wave

Abstract

This study aims to reveal the Girl's Power issue and other dominant issues expressed in *The 5th Wave* novel written by Rick Yancey. Differences in perspective are assumed to bring up differences between one person and another in reviewing a novel. The primary data source is in the form of reader reviews on Goodreads website in *The 5th Wave* novel published in 2013. The secondary data source comes from previous research relating to the writing of the novel under study. This research uses qualitative research where data collection is mostly from words or text, and analyzing words subjectively. There are four dominant issues found, namely character and racterization, point of view, plot, and writing style of the novel. In *The 5th Wave* novel shows how the depiction of Girl's Power is delivered by the main female characters. There are three findings in this issue, namely the Girl's Power represented by Cassie's independence, confidence, and empowerment.

Keywords: girl's power, goodreads, reader's-response, the 5th wave

1. INTRODUCTION

Literature is any creation that is written. It was created not only to get a detailed information while reading it, but also to make the readers interested and enjoy the work then think about how to give appreciation about the work. (Barnet, Burto, & Cain, 2008). The literary work is closely related to the reader, because the literary works

devoted to the interest of the reader as a connoisseur of works. Readers also determine the meaning and value of literary works, so that the literary works has value if there are readers who provide value. One of literary works that commonly responded by young teenagers is *The 5th Wave* novel. *The 5th Wave* is written by a native floridian author, Richard Yancey, known as Rick Yancey. According to data taken from *Goodreads*' website in May 2018, since the novel was published in 2013, the novel has been rated by more than 300 thousands people worldwide with an accumulated rating of 4.09 out of 5. *The 5th Wave* novel also has been reviewed by more than 27 thousands people around the world. *The 5th Wave* novel is a Young-Adult novel with a girl as the main character. The novel includes of science fiction novel with lifting the genre of dystopia that discusses the topic in the future.

The 5th Wave novel lifted the story of a teenage girl who has survived the four great waves that the alien has launched into the earth. She survived from the danger of the EMP, tsunami, plague, and silencer. The novel told about a girl 16-year-olds named Cassie Sullivan who had a family that consisting of a mother, father, and brother named Sammie. In this novel Cassie described as strong and resilient woman. She had to survive on her own because aliean's invasion.

There are several reasons why the researcher is interested to take the Girl's Power issue and choose *The 5th Wave* novel in her research. The first reason is the Girl's Power issue becomes the existing issue of the research. It becomes exciting for the researcher, because it is a phenomenon that is still a major topic in terms of equality both men and women. Thus, this study is expected to enrich discussion on the women's representation in literary works.

The second reason is about the study of reader-response that used to analyze the issue. Studying reader-response theory is more interesting to be talked about. According to Iser (1978), with the interaction between the text of the literary work and the readers, it evidenced that the study of literary work is not only related to the physical text, but also how the readers give their responses that related to the text itself. *The 5th Wave novel* raises various responses from readers. As it is known that one with another person might be different in responding a literary work such as a novel. The responses can be either positive or negative, depending on the the reader's perception.

To know various responses that arise on the issue of Girl's Power and other dominant issues, it is necessary to conduct a research by using reader's-response theory. The last reason is because the novel has potential to inspire the readers through the deep meaning of the story. The story of Cassie's struggles conveys the message that there is no word to surrender in fighting for getting something. Since it requires the hard and maximum sacrifice.

Based on the reasons above, the researcher decides to examine Girl's Power issue on *The 5th Wave* novel. Reader's-response theory is chosen to understand how is the perspective of the readers in the novel that will be studied. Furthermore, the research focuses only on Girl's Power and other dominant issues responded by the readers in *The 5th Wave* novel. So, the researcher entitled the research "GIRL'S POWER REFLECTED IN RICK YANCEY'S *THE 5TH WAVE* NOVEL (2013): A READER'S-RESPONSE THEORY". It can be concluded that the notion of Girl Power comes along with the third wave of feminism. The third wave of feminism allows women to define feminism for themselves by inserting their identity according to their own beliefs and perspectives. In simple terms that Girl Power can be described as a mental not to be outdone by the men, each of her will, and she as personally will achieve it with their own ability.

There are two objectives of the Study, to find the dominant issues responded by the readers of *The 5th Wave* novel and to identify the readers reveal Girl's Power issue of *The 5th Wave* novel. The researcher found some other researcher who have studied on the same issue about Girl's Power. However, there is no researcher who applied reader's-response theory to analyze the Girl's Power subject in their research yet. In this research, the present researcher applied the reader's-response theory in analyzing *The 5th Wave* novel. The researcher also investigated the issues of Girl's Power and other dominant issues that responded by the readers of *The 5th Wave* novel.

2. METHOD

This research is qualitative research. According to Creswell (2009), qualitative research is studying and investigating social phenomena that happens to individuals. The collecting data in qualitative research mostly consists of the words or texts, and

analyzing words subjectively. There are two types of research object in this research, For the formal object, the researcher discusses Girl's Power issue in *The 5th Wave* novel. In analyzing the novel the researcher uses reader-response theory. For the material object, it will be taken from *The 5th Wave* novel paperback version and reviewers of *The 5th Wave* novel in Goodreads' website. *The 5th Wave* novel is written by Rick Yancey. The novel were published in 2013 by G.P. Putnam's Sons Books. The novel has 13 chapters and 457 pages.

There are also two types of data and data source in this research. The primary data is taken from the reviewers of *The 5th Wave* novel in Goodreads's website. It focuses on Girl's Power issue and the dominant issues responded by the reviewers of *The 5th Wave* novel in Goodreads' website. The data from the reviewers are taken on the 8th of February 2013 until 9th July 2017. The data is selected sorted by the best reviews in Goodreads' website. The secondary data is derived from the previous research, which have done by several English Department students of UMS and other universities, from the books that related to the research, and also from websites on the Internet.

The data collections in this study are all of information related to Girl's Power issue and the the other issues reflected in *The 5th Wave* novel. In that process, the researcher conducted seven steps: Reading *The 5th Wave* novel to get the clear understanding about the content of the novel, Printing the selected responses about *The 5th Wave* novel paperback version from Goodreads' website, Classifying the data based on the existing issue, Reading the data that have been classified repeatedly, Taking notes of important parts of the data, Selecting particular parts based on the importance for analyzing and relating to the relevant theory, Drawing conclusion and formulate the suggestion.

According to Creswell (2009), data analysis in qualitative research can be divided into six steps, as follows: Organizing and preparing the data, Reading through all the data, Begining the detailed analysis with a coding process, Giving description of the data analysis, Interrelating the description of the analysis, Interpreting the description of the analysis. The researcher makes interpretation of the findings until the conclusion was drawn based on the answers of the research question.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this research, there are four dominant issues. Based on the readers' review the dominant issues are the creator, genre, storyline, plot, and in writing style of the novel. The researcher analyses it by using reader-response theory. The responses are taken from the Goodreads' website.

To know the background of the reviewers, researcher provides data background of reviewers by dividing it into three classification, namely: origin, gender, and year of the review. Based on the Goodreads website there are seven reviewers come from Europe, a reviewer from Asian, three reviewers from North American, a reviewer from South American, African has no reviewer, Australian has three reviewers, and unidentification is five reviewers. The number of female reviewers is higher than male reviewers. It evidenced from twenty reviewers, there are seventeen female reviewers.

In this novel, Cassie is an independence young woman. She becomes independent after leaving her house. Living alone in an alien invasion increase her independent. Cassie shows that she decides to leave her home town to find her brother. By moving place by place she believes that oneday she will find her brother safe. She thinks that it is the right time to be independence. She does not depend on anyone. She decides to find own way by walking alone, even she has to face many obstacles. It proves that she never wants to bother other people. Most of the reviewers amazed with Cassie's character, they argue if a girl could be live independently. Furthermore, in doing her effort in trying to find her brother, she always tries to do it by herself. She shows her struggle everyday to solve many obstacles and think independently about the solution. The example of Cassie's independence shows when she shot by silencer, accidentally she safe by a man named Evan. She has principled not to trust anyone. Thus, she believes that she only has one, that is to find her brother.

In this novel, Cassie learns how to gain confidence in her way to find her brother. She is not a confident woman in the beginning of the story. Later, she learns how to be confident girl and shows it. Cassie is shocked when she comes back to the camp, her brother has lost. She has no confident about how to fight to face the silencers. Then he was attacked by a silencer, his leg was shot. But he was saved by a mysterious

young man, Evan Walker. However, after wave 4, there is one rule that we must not trust anyone so, to survive must be carried out alone (not with others). Whether Evan was an enemy or friend, could Cassie trust him to save his brother or not. Cassie does not gain her self-confidence instantly. She gains it through process. Meeting new people in the way she find her brother gives her so many experiences that build her confidence day by day. The reviewers excited with Cassie's wonderful effort. Nevertheless it not as easy as people think. It spends so much effort and energy. There are many people who do not have ability to survive in this kind of situation. She turns to be more confident and independent in facing the problems. In this point, she gets her empowerment.

4. CONCLUSION

From the answer given by reviewers regarding responses to Girl's Power issue in The 5th Wave novel, then it was concluded that everyone have different responses in evaluating a literary work. This matter evident from the twenty reviewers in Goodreads website, there are twenty reviewers have no similarities in reviewing. The similarity of the reviews contained in responses regarding to the Girl Power aspect Meanwhile, for the Girl Power aspect. There are various kinds of reviews with various explanations. In addition, from the reviews it can also be concluded though the reviewers have levels different interests in the literary work, but level of understanding and mastery of theory and simple analysis methods of a literary work turns out to be the same. This can be seen from responses regarding to the data with the majority of reviewers as much twenty reviewers give their responses on Girl Power aspect, such as being confident, being independent, and empowerment.

This part presents the conclusion of the investigation. Based on the past examination, the analyst has concluded three conclusions. To begin with the background of the reviewers on Goodreads website. The researcher partitioned into three categories such as the the origin, the gender, and the year of the review. Most of the reviewers are come from Europe. Moreover, it was ruled by the female reviewers. The most number of reviewers is in 2013.

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Then, there are a other issues that have been expressed by the reviewers. There are four issues expressed by the reviewers such as character and racterization, point of view, plot, and writing style of the novel. The female reviewers basically criticize approximately to the creator. Subsequently, the reviewers communicated their feeling towards *The 5th Wave* novel.

There are three Girl's Power aspect that discussed in this research. The first Girl Power aspect is being independent. Cassie shows her independence through this novel. The second aspect is being confident. Cassie has no confidence at the first time Celebrating femininity empowers Cassie character because it keeps her existence, then, she gains confidence. Moreover, every decision in her life also helps her gain

independence and confidence. She learns from many mistakes that she makes. Furthermore, she is an independent woman. She tries to solve her problems alone. However, she cannot control herself and lose her relationship with her family, friends, and boyfriend because of her over confidence. Her over confidence turns her to be an obsessive woman. Finally, she realizes that her life and journey are imbalance.

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