

**THE MYTH MAKING OF AMERICAN VAMPIRE IN STEPHENIE  
MEYER'S *TWILIGHT* (2005): SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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**By**

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

*Twilight* is a novel written by Stephenie Meyer, published by Little Brown and Company, USA. The novel consists of 518 pages and 24 chapters. This novel was released in 2005. Such as some other novel, this novel also has more value. Therefore, the novels full with the social and historical items (Meyer, 2008).

*Twilight* is a modern romantic story between a girl and the Vampire. This story begins when Isabella Swan decided to move from Arizona, her mother's house, to her father's house in Forks. Forks are place that very different from Arizona. Bella likes a sun. But in Forks, she will not meet a sun everyday. She will see rainy season of several time. In her second day in Forks, she meets most of new face in her new school. Bella is not too difficult to adapt there. Actually, she gets some best friend is like Jessica, Angela, Mike, Eric, and Taylor. Moreover, Mike and Eric want to be more friends by Bella.

One time, Bella seemed very curious with some people in one of table in the school cafeteria. She looks a boy that too handsome for human size. But the pale white face is smooth as porcelain, jet black eyes, and hair color bronze increase Bella's curiosity. The boy sits with two girls and two boys. After she asks to Jessica, she knows that they are the Cullen's, and the boy is Edward Cullen. When their eyes met, Edward is like to will against to Bella.

Bella has planned to ask him about his problem in the next day, but he doesn't come.

In the several days after that time, Edward says Hallo to Bella in the English class. Bella is very surprise and think that Edward has double personality. Since the time, they start close. Bella has been conscious of falling in love with Edward. Even Bella knows that Edward is a vampire with more 100 years old.

Following the success of *Twilight*, Stephenie Meyer extended her story into a series with three more books. They are *New Moon* (2006), *Eclipse* (2007), and *Breaking Dawn* (2008). And the *Twilight* series called *Twilight Saga*. *Twilight* was published in 2005 with a print run of 75,000 copies. The *Twilight* novels have sold over 42 million copies worldwide, with translations into 37 different languages around the globe. And the novel gets some appreciate, such as from A New York Times as Editor's choice, A Publisher Weekly as Best Book of the Year, An Amazon. Com as Best Book of the decade, A Teen People as Host List Pick, one of School Library Journal as Best Books of 2005, and from American Library Association as Top Ten Best Book for Young Adults and Top Ten Books for Reluctant Readers (Meyer, 2008).

Most of people like to read *Twilight*. Because of that, they give some opinion about the novel. Some of them pro with everything in the content of the novel, and there are some other people that contra with the content of the novel, too. The writer found three people whom give pro opinion to the novel.

First is Endah Suci Astuti, a Journalist from Nyata magazine, with her article “Lensa Baru Dunia Vampire”. She said that *Twilight* is an excellent novel. Stephenie Meyer uses simple style for her written, and the story is like reality and very detail. Stephenie Meyer is a writer about vampire who well-known after Anne Rice. She can crash down everything about vampire myth (Astuti, 2008). The second is Lara Christina in her article entitled “An Intelligent Vampire Novel for both Teens and Adults”. She said that this novel is very wonderful; moreover there is no disadvantage for reader to read it. According to her, *Twilight* is beautifully written, believable, and also exciting. A struggle to keep the vampire’s love, make a reader can sleep before she/he read until finish it (Christina, 2008). And the third is from Pady, and title of his article is “Honest Opinion about *Twilight*, the Novel”. He said that Stephenie Meyer has a unique style to write her story, is very different with Anne Rice and Laurell hamilton. Stephenie has such a simple childlike of explaining certain characters. Pady thinks that Stephenie Meyer has purposes by her written. He also has same opinion with Endah Astuti that Stephenie Meyer is very smart to crash down a vampire myth (Pady, 2008).

The writer also found three people who give contra opinion about *Twilight*. First opinion is from Hendri Yulius “Pesona Mitos, Gemerlap *Twilight*”. He said that this novel explain about patriarchy culture because Stephenie Meyer tell about some weakness from a woman, Bella, who need help from her hero, Edward. A paradigm is like that can influence mind from the reader. Actually, this novel is general novel because *Twilight* tell about a

couple who falling in love but they are in different world, vampire and human. That is similar of story like Cinderella, between a rich man and a poor girl (Yulius, 2009). The second contra opinion come from Qaryatisyahin entitled “*Twilight* Merendahkan Wanita” on her article. She has same idea and opinion like Hendri Yulius. She thinks that in this novel there are indoctrinations about patriarchy culture (Qaryatisyahin, 2009). And the third opinion is from Clantly Scad in her *Twilight* Review. She said that Stephenie Meyer should not to tell how Edward as a vampire wants to do sex with Bella as a human. Whereas, they still in Senior High School and also seventeen years old (Scad, 2008).

Stephenie Meyer was born on December 24, 1973 in Hartford, Connecticut, to Stephen and Candy Morgan. She graduated from Chaparral High School in Scottsdale, Arizona, and Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. Stephenie Meyer is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Her husband is Pancho and she has three sons: Gabe, Seth, and Eli. She writes story about vampire base on her dreams in 2 June, 2003 (Meyer, 2008).

There are seven reasons that make the novel interesting, important, and challenge to read. First reason is about the amazing characters in the novel, especially Edward Cullen. Stephenie Meyer explores about Edward Cullen like an angel, an ideal man types for women. He is a perfect man and also he is stronger than other vampire. Edward is not young, but when he fall in love with Bella Swan, his behavior as well as the other teenagers. Edward also is

very overprotective to Bella Swan because she is his first love. While about Bella Swan is very opposite with him. She is a general girl, not too beautiful, no well-known girl, and also not too perfect to be a dreaming girl for men. Moreover, she has no good coordination in physically. That is cause why she seldom joins in Physic Class. But the writer sure that most of girl want to be like her. Because someone is like Edward can fall in love with her. Bella has a unique character and life style.

The second reason is good and imaginative setting. Stephenie explore about setting of time, place and situation in *Twilight* very detail and simple. So, the reader is like take a part in the story. Stephenie is very smart and creative to explain about setting in the story. She may reach to the reader's imagination. So, don't be surprised that the reader's *Twilight* may forgetting their time because the reader influenced by the story.

The third reason is interesting plot. Stephenie don't use complicated plot. She begins from beginning to finishing of time. So, there is no flashback (of time) in this story. The plot of *Twilight* is very systematic, detail, and clear. Its explaining about the novel conflict that so good. Stephenie Meyers explains about the climax from the story is very detail, so the readers fell take a part in the vampire conflict. The reader's *Twilight* never be confuse to follow the story, because not too difficult to understand about the plot of story. In this case, the reader also feels comfort in reading.

The fourth reason is interesting point of view. In this story, Stephenie also take a part. She belongs to a participant, become "I" in Bella's character.

Using Bella's perspective, Stephenie invites the reader to be Bella's character. So, the reader will more and more comprehend fully in the story.

The fifth reason is simplify style that using by Stephenie Meyer in *Twilight*. Written style and language style (figurative language too) that using by Stephenie are very simple. She never uses complicated language in the story, even disposed use short sentences in every dialogue. The reader doesn't need more time to understand about the meaning of the story. Although Stephenie uses simple sentences in *Twilight*, not mean that *Twilight* has no good quality. Exactly *Twilight* can be interesting story with its simple style.

The sixth reason is about the unique theme. The story of *Twilight* is very unique because no more authors write about story like this. Stephenie uses this theme in merger between teenager story, horror, and myth. This theme is very care about the teenagers from fantasy and romance side. Stephenie Meyer mixes her story with something that has relation with teenagers. Because, some teenager who will read a novel rarely. In fantasy side, the novel can make the reader will don't stop their reading.

The seventh reason is about the conflicting of reality. The novel opens a history about vampire. In the novel, vampire explained is not like that we know. But Stephenie Meyer wants to we know that almost people in this world still believe with the myth of vampire. She explains more knowledge about vampire in their living self. So, in this novel more less Stephenie Meyer convey that there are differential thought and image about vampire, by conventional and contemporary way. In the myth, a vampire is immortal

creature, undead, drink human blood, live in case, and scare the light of the sun or natural light. While in *Twilight*, the Cullen's explained as a 'vegetarian' vampire that just drinks animal blood, not scare to natural light, can live together with society, and don't sleep in a case. Because of that, the writer is very interesting to study about the myth making of American Vampire by Stephenie Meyer in *Twilight*.

The writer uses sociological theory as the approach to analyze the novel because the story of the novel is about social things in some characteristic life. There are some things that have to research by other side to open the true meaning in the story.

## **B. Literature Review**

The writer presents the previous study of the novel. There are studies that have relation with the writer study. First study is from Emily Reynolds. She is a student in Brigham Young University. She writes about *Twilight* for finish her thesis of Master of Art. Her thesis title is *Screams, Vampires, Werewolves and Autographs: An Exploration of the Twilight Phenomenon* (2009). This thesis studies about some phenomenon that happens if a novel adapted to be a movie. In her thesis, Emily studies about novel *Twilight* especially, but in the content of her thesis, she gives examples some movies before *Twilight* that had been adapted to be a movie. For examples *Austen's Pride and Prejudice*, *Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet*, *Dumas's The Count of Monte Cristo* that well-known as classics movies. *Lord of the Rings* and *Rowling's Harry Potter*, too. In this case, media is very influential toward



phenomenon that happens in our environment. And in the reality, emergence movies that adapted from novels may changes the social perspective. For examples *Lord of the Rings*, become a trend for society who observed it. And also *Harry Potter* that become a standard of pop culture for it fans.

Emily studies about the phenomenon that happen if *Twilight* also adapted to be a movie, what is seem with others or not. And the result from this study is indirectly evidence that most of phenomenon *Twilight* movies appear in our environment, especially in teenagers. By the perfect characters in the novel, most of fans willing spend their much money for this. They find everything that has relation about the novel, movies, and also the characters. Moreover, they make a club special for *Twilighters*. They also make many stickers and T-shirt that inscribed with the characters name. And some of them make a match team between Edward's team and Jacob's team, because in *Twilight*, the characters compete to get beloved Bella. *Twilighters* were also expressing that tehey seeking out tangible manifestation of the characters in the novel and try to intregate into their lfe. Finally, this research measured the frequency of behavior focused *Twilight*.

Emily uses sociological approach in her study, but not too detail. She also uses survey method, but she uses qualitative measures. Because her study is survey that have quality investigation.

The second study is from Edwin B Arnaudin. He is a student in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His study has title *Mormon vampires: The Twilight Saga and Religious Literacy* (2008). Edwin studies

about the relationship between the Mormon faith and Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight*. He wants to know about Stephenie Meyer's religion perspective through her written text in the novel. And the result of this study is the limitations of Stephenie Meyer's religion as seen through her writing are thoroughly explored, revealing the unique boundaries through which her beliefs force her to work. By abstaining from explicitly mentioning aspects of Mormon doctrine, Stephenie Meyer nevertheless creates imaginative characters and scenarios, though the resulting texts still carry an undeniable and inescapable air of Latter-day Saint values. Edwin convinces his research to us that Stephenie Meyer's novel is truly Mormon novels and could not be anything else. Because her working is in a unique literary medium that, though previously treaded by likes of Card, has never achieved such as popularity.

The third study is from George A Dunn (Housel and Wisnewski, 2009). His written entitled "You Look Good Enough to Eat: Love, Madness, and Food Analogy". In his study, George A Dunn explains about Edward is interesting toward Bella's blood. Actually, Edward is a vampire who blood thirsty. In the first time Bella come to school and sit down in Edward's beside, Edward has a desire to against to Bella for get Bella's blood. And in the first time in their meet, Edwards attempt to explains about Bella's blood is like ice cream, so Edward want to consume her. In any time, Edward ever says to Bella that her blood feels like strawberry. Gorge A Dunn found that there is something undeniably erotic and intimate about the way a vampire feeds, not to mention the seductive animal magnetism he exudes. George A Dunn also

studies about symbol in the cover of *Twilight*. The cover of *Twilight* is a red apple. Truly it is a symbol. An apple in Greek's myth is as catalyst of desire and discord. And in the Bible, apple is "forbidden fruit" that show about good and evil. Christian theologians such as Thomas Aquinas (1224-1274) believe that apple alert people to the dangers of what they called *concupiscentia* or concupiscence." It means natural and spontaneous movement in desire to pleasure things is like a food and sex.

The fourth study is from Jean Kazez entitled "Dying to Eat: the Vegetarian Ethics of *Twilight*" (Housel and Wisnewski, 2009). She studies about the Edward's desire to consume Bella's blood because he is a vampire. But in the story, Edward and his family is a vegetarian vampires' vampires who just consume animal bloods. Truly this is opposites of the reality because vampire usually drinks human blood. In this story, Edward can't consume human blood because he doesn't want to be a monster. They should not be consuming animal's blood because vampire will not satisfy with it. If vampire just consumes animal's blood, it is like a human who only eat tofu for all life. Edward as a vegetarian vampire consumes animal's blood to survive. Jean also found comparison between Edward and Bella in feeds. Edward just consumes animal's blood to survive and avoid being a monster. While Bella always just eat vegetables to keep healthy. For example, when Edward and Bella in the restaurant, Bella just choose mushroom ravioli but not animals to a health decision.

The fifth study comes from Nicolas Michaud. His study about “Can a Vampire be a Person?” (Housel and Wisnewski, 2009). Nicolas explains about Edward Cullen. Edward Cullen is a loving husband, a brilliant musician, a devoted son, and a remarkable baseball player. But Edward is a vampire. He doubt if Edward can be a person or normal human being like us. A person is simply a bearer of rights, someone worthy of respect. But in *Twilight*, Edward is like a human, but not same with others human. Edward, as a vampire, is immortal, don't have age, super-strong and super-fast, and have super-sense, good smelling, and good hearing. The philosopher Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) argued that being a human was not enough to make you a person. The ability to think makes someone to be a person. It means that to being a person did not simply mean being ‘rational’, but also can ‘being part of the moral community’. A person has to have respect for each other, such as: consciousness, reasoning, self-motivated activity, the capacity to communicate, and the presence of self-concepts. and the final study, Jean tell that may a vampire can't be a person or human being like us, because inside f human being there is an important thing. It is a soul. Human being has to have a soul to be good respect each other, but vampire doesn't have it. This makes us special than vampire. Even in the story, Edward afraid that Bella will lose her soul.

The last study is from Andrew Terjesen and Fenny Terjesen with title “Carlisle: more Compassionate than a Speeding Bullet?” (Housel and Wisnewski, 2009). They study about some strength that the Cullen's have.

Edward can read minds (except Bella), Alice sees a possible futures, Bella immune from other strength, Jasper may manage other's feeling, and Carlisle can endure of human blood for hundreds years. Carlisle says that it is a gift. And theory about vampire gifts is like this, "We all bring something of our strongest human traits with us into the next life, where they are intensified-like our minds, and our sense." This study just study about strengths that vampire have because it can differentiate from human being.

Different from the previous writers, the writer has different perspective, object, and method in analyzing the data. The writer just concentrates to study about the novel using sociological approach. And uses the approach, the writer analyze about the myth making of American Vampire in Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight*.

### **C. Problem Statement**

The problem of the study is to unravel "how the myth making of American Vampire reflected in Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* based on the structural analysis and the sociological approach".

### **D. Limitation of the Study**

The study analyzes how is the myth making of American Vampire reflected in Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* is viewed from the sociological analysis.

**E. Objective of the Study**

1. To analyze the novel based on the structural element.
2. To analyze the novel based on the sociological theory.

**F. Benefit of the Study**

The writer hopes that the study will provide benefits:

1. To give theoretical contribution to the large body of knowledge.
2. The study is expected can be reached the writer knowledge and experience to the other researchers.

**G. Research Method**

1. Object of the Study

Object of the study is Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight*.

2. Type of the Study

In analyzing the novel, the writer uses the qualitative study.

Qualitative study is a study method that doesn't need statistic or account number to analyze the data.

3. Type of the Data and Data Source

Type of the Data is from text such as word, sentences, discourse and dialogue. And there are two data source that become basic the study.

They are:

- a. Primary Source

The primary data source of the study is the novel *Twilight* written by Stephenie Meyer released in USA, 2005.

b. Secondary Source

Supporting data source are taken from searching internet about the written biography, essay, comments, historical, and all information that have relation with it.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The data collecting technique used in the study is Notes Taking.

The necessary steps are as follows:

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly. Reading the novel at least twice minimally, so the clues in the content easiest to find.
- b. Taking notes of the relevant parts in both primary and secondary data sources. Make a mark or underline in each sentences in the content of story for researched.
- c. Classifying the data into some categories.
- d. Selecting them by rejecting irrelevant information that does not support the topic of the study.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the writer employs descriptive qualitative analysis. The descriptive qualitative analysis is describing about fact and followed by analysis. In this case, this analysis not only describing, but also giving understanding about some related theory.

## **H. Research Paper Organization**

This research paper organization consists of six chapters. The first chapter consists of background of the study, literature review, problem

statement, and limitation of the problem, objective of the study, benefits of the study, research method, and research paper organization. The second chapter is theoretical approach (the notion of sociology of literature, the major principles, structural elements, and theoretical application). In the third chapter will explain about historical background of America in early twentieth century. In the fourth chapter about structural analysis consists of structural analysis and discussion about it. In the fifth chapter just explain about sociological analysis. And in the last chapter consist of conclusion and suggestion.