

NEED FOR WOMEN'S INDEPENDENCE
IN DANIELLE STEEL'S *JOURNEY*:
FEMINIST APPROACH



RESEARCH PAPER

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Most of the lovers of romantic novel know the popular author such Danielle Fernande Dominique Schuelein-Steel best known as Danielle Steel who was born in New York on August 14th 1947. She is the best selling author in the United States whose novel has been sold millions of copies in dozens of languages and has kept her on the bestseller lists since the 1980s. Nearly all of her novel tells about suspense novels and most of her characters are women, married, and divorced women. Some examples of her literary works that become international best seller include, *Second Chance*, *Ransom*, *Safe Harbour*, *Johnny Angel*, *Dating Game*, *Answered Prayers*, *Sunset in St. Tropez*, and other highly acclaimed novels. It's amazing to think that *Journey*, the fifty three's novel is Danielle Steel's 50th novel that way first published by Bantam Dell on October 31, 2000 consisting of 368's page. When the other author fruitless making a novel that usually a falling off in inspiration, Steel seems able to add new elements to each book that keep the level of invention fresh. *Journey* uses basics familiar from earlier Steel bestsellers, but manages a totally novel spin on the private problems of a very public marriage. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danielle_Steel).

Danielle Steel portrays the need of women's independence through main character of the novel, Madeleine Hunter, better known as Maddy. There was a time in Maddy's life when she knew a real domestic abuse. Her first husband was abuse her, and her life turned into a frightening horrific nightmare. Maddy's mother had been abused by her husband, Maddy's dad, and so the vicious cycle was doomed to continue as is the case with many victims of domestic violence. But Maddy's life changed one fine day when Jack Hunter came to help her and married her. He gave Maddy the best, which money can buy, including European vacations, gorgeous clothes, and glamorous life. Her high profile job as an anchorwoman on his network was high paying and made Maddy a star. But Maddy soon realized that her life was not the life that she believed it to be. Maddy had always tried to deny Jack's subtle put-down, control and jealousy, but she had no bruises, only the daggers of fear humiliation and isolation. Until one day, she became an advisor on a panel of other prominent people, forming a coalition on Violence against Women. Soon Maddy realized that the years of silent suffering in her own marriage was very similar to the stories she heard from abused women she started visiting in shelters. There, she heard eerily familiar stories from terrified wives and girlfriends and she was aware that something was terribly wrong in her marriage Maddy faced with the most difficult choice of her life. From some accidents that happened to her, finally she made a decision that

she needed independence in her life, and she did not want to always depend on Jack, obeyed his rule and did everything what he said.

The responses of public of this novel are varied, pro and contra, such amazon.com data that shows most of the readers like this novel. They say that the topic of *Journey* is interesting because there are prosecute domestic violence cases as misdemeanors and know how hard it is for women to get out of the cycle of violence. This novel is somewhat painful to read. Enjoying this novel is for raising the consciousness of those of us who like fiction. That would have shown real growth on the part of the main character, Maddy was a real likeable character. They think that every woman should read this book because it gets the message of emotional and verbal abuse across very well. Towards the end the book is very good and reminds them of Mrs. Steel's early work. They think that Mrs. Steel has done a fantastic job of writing about abuse, and not just physical abuse but emotional abuse, or invisible abuse, because it is harder for everyone to see.

Not only the good comments, but also they are criticism toward this novel. They think that this novel had a great deal of repetition of certain phrase and words. They think it could have been shorter and just as effective to make the reader not too bored when reading it. The title may be not suitable with the story, because life is too short for such writing. There was someone said that this novel was the second Danielle Steel's book that he read after "The Kiss", he could not believe how similar the two stories were. Kathryn

lively that gave comment on April 14, 2003 said that she is a fan of Danielle Steel, she like some of Steel earlier works, but she was sorry to say that *Journey* was not one of Steel better novel. (http://www.amazon.com/Journey-DanielleSteel/dp/0440237025/ref=cm_lmf_tit_16)

Based on the rating of this novel in www.amazon.com, this novel is popular enough. It is proven by the selling of this novel and being the America's 1 best seller. This novel has been translated into 28 languages, including Indonesian language and many people like her novel.

The fascinating of this novel, are the story of this novel is not only entertaining, but also gives information about women abuse. Then, the style of her writing is so full of sensitivity, wisdom, and compassion. Besides that, the character of major character, Steel explicates the various forms of spousal abuse, and although the text occasionally gets preachy, the desperate plight of women who remain in destructive situations is clearly delineated. The most attractive thing of this novel is that in the story of the *Journey*, the major character, Maddy shows her need for her independence from her husband. Her husband Jack always abuses her, psychologically and emotionally. This effort is related to Feminist effort for their independence.

Independence is an ability to stand on one's own foot in taking care of one's own self within all aspect of life. It becomes a very important factor for all human being in this life. Men and women are necessarily to be independent in order they can survive in this cruel world. Basically, women

have the same ability to solve their problems on their own equal to men. But, in fact, women, for centuries, have no equal right as their male counterparts, and actually they need independence in their life.

For centuries, women had worked but their performance were valued for their sex and not for their work, but recently, women's consciousness emerges and they can decide themselves about what they want to be. From now on, many women enter new areas of life. They now enjoy education and run their own business. They are more realistic, independent, serious, free, and get more confident. Thus they no longer depend on men, both economically and psychologically. Their roles are now expanded. This alternative and movements are known as feminism.

The major character of *Journey*, Maddy faces the psychological and emotional abuse from her husband, from the problems that happen to her, so automatically, she needs independence in her life. Her independence in facing life seems to be the major theme of novel. The background above attracts the writer to analyze the novel within the feminist perspectives frame work into her research paper entitled: **Need for Women's Independence in Danielle Steel's *Journey*: Feminist Approach.**

B. Literature Review

After looking for literary reviews in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, the writer has not found the research concerning with the *Journey's* novel done by other writers. The writer will analyze the need for women's Independence reflected on *Journey* novel by using feminist approach.

C. Problem Statement

From the background of the study above, the writer would like to state the problem statement as "How women's independence as a need is reflected in Danielle Steel's *Journey*."

D. Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem statement above, the writer can propose some objectives of the study below:

1. To analyze the novel based on its structural elements.
2. To analyze the novel based on feminist approach.

E. Limitation of the Study

To make the research appropriate with the objectives of the study, the writer will make a limitation to the research. The writer will only focus on how the women's independence as a need for Major Character, Maddy is shown in Danielle Steel's *Journey's* novel by using feminist approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The reason why someone makes a research is to get the benefit from it. By so doing, the writer expects some benefits are produced from this research, those are:

1. Theoretical Benefit:

By doing this research, the writer wants to have contribution in criticizing a literary work and producing criticism as objective as possible.

2. Practical Benefit

This research can be used to know how the women's independence is needed in the family's life related to feminist approach, especially on Danielle Steel's *Journey's* novel.

G. Research Method

In doing a research, the writer should apply a method so that the research can be done systematically. The methods of the research are follows:

1. Type of the Research

The writer uses descriptive qualitative research in this literary work. Crabtree and Miller (1999: 5) say that a qualitative is "an interpretive research focusing on a natural, often human, field or activity, with the goal of generating holistic and realistic description and / or explanation".

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *Journey* novel by Danielle Steel.

3. Data and Data Sources

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is the novel itself, *Journey* wrote by Danielle Steel.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data are taken from other sources which are related to the primary data that support the analysis. They are books and virtual references.

4. Data Collecting Method and Techniques

The data collecting method is library research, released document to be observed. Meanwhile, the techniques are:

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly.
- b. Taking notes of the influence information both primary and secondary data.
- c. Arranging the data into several groups based on its classifications
- d. Selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis
- e. Drawing conclusion and formulating suggestion.

5. Data Analyzing Technique

The steps of analyzing the data of this research are by analyzing the structural elements of the work and analyzing the feminist perspectives of the work. Analyzing the data of this research is trying to clarify the obtained data by selecting the necessary ones.

H. Research Paper Organization

In order to make this paper easy to be followed, the writer gives some order for the paper organization. Chapter I is introduction which covers background of the a study, literature review, problem statement, objective of the study, limitation of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and paper organization. Chapter II is underlying theory which covers theory about feminism, women independence, and structural elements of novel. Chapter III is social background of American in late of twentieth century. Chapter IV is structural analysis. Chapter V is feminist analysis. And chapter VI is conclusion and suggestion.