

## **Half-Sibling Incest in Kody Keplinger's "A Midsummer Nightmare"**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This study discusses the sibling incest phenomenon reflected in Kody Keplinger's novel A Midsummer Nightmare. The purpose of this study is to reveal the sibling incest factors contained in Keplinger's novel. In conducting this study, there are several theories which are applied in study, namely psychodynamic by Sigmund Freud's and psychoanalysis by Karen Horney. Those theories are suitable for analyze the phenomenon of sibling incest happens, and causing factors of sibling incest in line of the research problems that has been formulated in this study. The writer also applies context-oriented approach by Mario Klarer to obtain the adequate data. In collecting data, the writer conducts some steps namely, close reading, documenting data, and taking notes, while in analyzing data the writer conducts deep analyzing, describing, and presenting data.*

*Therefore, the writer can identify the phenomenon of sibling incest happens, and several factors for the occurrence of sibling incest in the novel A Midsummer Nightmare by Kody Keplinger, such as (1) between age peers, (2) the law of homogamy, (3) genetic sexual attraction (GSA). Furthermore, The results of this study indicates that this novel attempts to reflect the phenomenon of sibling incest through the character of Natan and Whitley who have problems in their life that lead them to forbidden love. Good parenting and upbringing will help shape the child's personality to grow well. Love and full attention can make a child find a good way of life. In this novel, the sibling incest factors mentioned above describe a daughter who lacks love and attention from her parents due to the broken home that befell her family, so that she grows up by bad personalities and even love her own brother and having sex for many times.*

Keywords : Half Sibling Incest, Kody Keplinger,

## INTRODUCTION

The most important things in this world are about family and love, our life depends on of family. Everything happens in family influence our habit, moreover our future. The most important of all kinds of how parents play the role to their family, love positions the first place, He warned with the concept of misconception of love. He also differentiated the love in term of affection to sexually motivated love by saying “We do not fall in love with our children even though we may love them very deeply”. However, a viral case in social media news in about August 2016, reported a 36-year-old Mares and her son, Caleb Peterson, have been charge into court after declaring their love in an exclusive media. They told in the newspaper that they made their relationship public purposely to raise awareness about GSA, (Genetic Sexual Attraction).

Incest occurs when a family member performs sexual activity, even it is kissing, hugging, touching, as long as it is motivated by sexual desire it will be recognized as incest. Those who have been charged with incest incidents are rarely reported for shame attributed to family honor, because it includes confidentiality that must be maintained by the family, such as a research that has examined more than 2000 families entitled behind closed doors notes that the majority of Americans value freedom so much that historically, the philosophy of what has happened at home is a family affair. even incest sibling incidents cannot be reported because most perpetrators mostly threaten the victim as part of a family member if it occurs on coercion.

Loving children is giving affection more to the children, giving time, fulfilling their necessary, and also giving understanding to their children about everything happens in this world. However, there are some families which do not give attention more to their children, so that many problems appear in their life. Family which has some problem will affect children's psychology. In broken family will give many bad effects to young generation, like in recent phenomena there are forbidden love happens in family, it familiar to called Half-Sibling Incest.

The novel tells the story of a girl who always needs alcohol and a man to calm her heart whenever her heart is agitated due to the divorce of her parents. Who thinks sex and alcohol can help her heart, so without knowing she has slept with her own step-brother. In producing literary work, sometimes the author influences or is influenced by the other

works consciously or not, (Dewi, 2019)<sup>1</sup>. Thus, This novel is written by kodi keplinger in Kentucky America based on reality, a midsummer nightmare is one of his works published by poppy, reprint edition on June 4, 2013 which has 304 pages and has 31 chapters in his novel that discusses Half-Sibling Incest towards his half-brother And the problems he had in his family.

Incest comes from the Latin, which means incest or incestum, which substantially means "unholy". While Incest itself is a sexual relationship or marriage between two close relatives that is considered illegal, Incest also includes sexual behavior with a variety of patterns, variations, causes, relationships, and effects. Likewise Incest is an inappropriate act or treatment, sexual intimacy, such as sexual immorality, masturbation, pornographic acts, oral sex, anal sex, digital intercourse and sexual intercourse between brothers and sisters or twins of the same sex.

Half-Sibling Incest can also mean criminal acts against children, especially against girls who are minors, because it can interfere psychologically, socially, and medically to the child, Incest relationships can also damage the victims' lives in many aspects. Incest relationships with minors can also lead to different psychiatric disorders including conversion disorders, dissociative disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, and threshold personality disorder, in case of coercion.

The psychodynamic concept was developed by Sigmund Freud who suggested that the psychological process is a complex flow of psychological energy in the brain, building on the basis of psychological energy, which is referred to as libido, Libido is another concept put forward by Freud and this has a store of psychic energy.

There are several components of personality, namely, temperament, environment, and character. Temperament is a set of genetically determined traits that determine a child's approach to the world and how the child learns about the world. There are no genes that determine personality traits, but several genes control the development of the nervous system, which in turn controls behavior. Both temperament and environment affect a person's personality development. While temperament depends on genetic

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<sup>1</sup> Dewi, *Point Of View On Death: A Study of Intertextuality in John Donne's 'Death, Be Not Proud', Emily Dickinson's 'Because I Could Not Stop for Death', and Appointment In Samarra As Retold By William Sommerset Maughm*. Karangan: Jurnal Bidang Kependidikan, Pembelajaran, dan Pengembangan.vol.1 No.2 (2019), hal.116-120

factors, high-quality parenting plays an important role in the development of a child's personality.

Dysfunctional Families; some Parents of incest-offender siblings themselves are reported to be significantly more dysfunctional and abusive. Whereas children need parents who are functional and not rude.

- a. Between Age Peers; Such a close age period will also potentially make siblings closer than their friends outside, as they will feel more calm and comfortable together with siblings whose age is not far from themselves, while the age difference between generations, sibling distance, and differences in the number of sexes and order between siblings will moderate the number of incest cases.
- b. The Law of Homogamy; i.e. treating the Law of Homogamy on the grounds that everyone has a tendency to marry in their social group even marry someone closer to them in status, in his study.
- c. Genetic Sexual Attraction (GSA); The attraction develops when biological family members meet as adults after having little or no prior contact, in other words they separate due to divorce both their parents are still equally small and have not understood each other.

Karen Horney's psychoanalysis theory is known as psychoanalytic social theory. Built on the assumption that social and cultural conditions have a big influence in the occurrence of incest in the family, especially childhood experiences are largely responsible for shaping a person's personality.

a. Childhood Experience

A child's future will depend on how parents treated him in his childhood. In his research Horney believes that childhood experiences are closely related to parenting that has great potential in shaping his personality. How a child is treated depends on the way he/she is cared for.

b. Neurotic Problems

Horney (1997:5) theorized that people will be anxious when the needs are not met. Then she listed ten neurotic needs as; 1) Affection and approval, 2) Dominant Partner, 3) Power, 4) Exploitation, 5) Prestige, 6) Admiration, 7)

Achievement, 8) Self-Sufficiency, 9) Perfection, and 10) Narrow Limits to Life<sup>2</sup>.

## **METHOD**

In relation with the problem and purpose set forth in the preceding chapter, the study is focused on examining forms of incestuous relationships either in real life or the novel closely related to how relationships are between family, and law. Hence, the study is designed to apply the approach by using the theoretical psychology of love.

The underlying causes and consequences of incestuous relationships as outlined in the preceding chapter clearly state that this study studies the causes of incest in a family, thus providing a study to reveal the underlying causes and incestuous factors in the family. The psychology of love leads to research on the issue of some factor resulting in incest in the family, as well as to the circumstances and conditions that an incestuous individual has been exposed to in some of the problems associated with the destruction of his family. Furthermore, since the source of data is literary work, this study applies context-oriented approach in conducting this study as Klarer points out that in this chapter, the authors need not to define the theory of certain methodologies. They need to explain how they are practiced to conduct the research such as gaining data, sources of data, etc.

## **FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

Sibling incest is an act that should not occur in the relationship of brother and sister, the term incest includes sexual behavior with various patterns, variations, causes, types, relationships, and effects.

### **A. Half-Sibling Incest in "A Midsummer Nightmare" Kody Keplinger.**

In this novel tells the story of a woman named Whitley who lives with her mother due to divorce, as a result of her parents' divorce, Whitley grew up with a very hard life, she always went to party which in it there was booze and lots of men to go with for her pleasure, Whitley felt that only partying, drinking, and having sex could overcome her depression.

This novel is a fictional story about Whitley who spends his autumn with his father, it has become a habit for Whitley, if he has entered the autumn holidays he will

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<sup>2</sup> Horney, Jayanti,D,L., *Kecenderungan Neurotik Tokoh Utama Dalam Novel Kerumunan Terakhir Karya Okky Madasari (Kajian Psikoanalisis Sosial Karen Horney)*.

go with his father and leave his mother alone because his parents divorced when Whitley still 14 years old, now he has graduated from school and will discuss the major he will choose later when he is in college, this is the time Whitley has been waiting for when autumn comes, Whitley has imagined how sweet this vacation will be with his father by discussing his future casually at the end of the lake his favorite place to be with his father, and he will be spending time with his father over the next few months as well as choosing a suitable place to continue his schooling.

Kody Kepliger explicitly shows that Whitley is a child whose life is so hard due to lack of parenting in her childhood due to the broken home of her parents. Even though a child should deserve love and care in childhood that will determine how he grows and makes him a good person, experiences that will be lessons for his life in the future to show him which direction is good or direction which will plunge it. As Freud said that high-quality parenting plays an important role in the development of a child's personality, from Freud's words it is clear that full parenting from both parents is one of the keys to the formation of a child's personal behavior that will build and educate him.

Whitley who always wanted time to be with Nathan, brought up her selfishness to feel that night again with Nathan. For Whitley, Nathan is a man who can understand what she feels even though she knows that Nathan is her own brother. She did not think about her feeling, she just trust that she needs Nathan for everything. All I wanted was to kiss him. Or for him to kiss me.

## **1. Factors of Half-Sibling Incest in "A Midsummer Nightmare" Kody Kepelinger**

In this novel, the character of Whitley is described as a girl who carried out inappropriate habits in her early age indicates that actually she really needs special attention and a way of educating in order to build it to be better.

## **2. Factor of Parental Indifference.**

Whitley is just a girl who is divorced by two people his old age when he was 14 years old. Due to the divorce her family and life were destroyed and never directed at all, her mother is now a drunk and drug addict due to the frustration her experienced, traces of her brother who left due to the divorce has had an affair. Living and having a family far out of town and never coming back.

### **3. Factors of Genetic Sexual Attraction (GSA)**

Whitley does have bad habits in her personal life. She always needs drinks, parties, and sex whenever she feels lonely or frustrated, Whitley thinks the nightlife is her best friend even she thinks her energy lives in the nightlife.

Whitley is a girl with a bad personality in her life. After the divorce of her parents, Whitley felt very devastated and all was not fair to her, Whitley became a girl who grew up with bad childhood experiences that made her have a bad personality to this day. Parties, liquor, sex is normal for him even according to Whitley it's all part of him.

### **CONCLUSION & SUGGESTION**

This study has discussed and revealed the big issue of sibling incest which is described in the play entitled *A Midsummer Nightmare* by Kody Keplinger. Then, this study also has discussed the possible factors which influence sibling incest happen in those works. Hence, this study is prominently emphasizing that sibling incest is kind of crucial phenomena which happen due to some possible factors, and it has been spread out everywhere and every time by considering the aforementioned works as the source of data is produced.

This researcher of this study hopes that this study can help the student who will analyze the literary work using the same theory. The researcher realizes that in this study still include many shortages, so that the researcher hopes that the next researcher will have a better writing than this study.

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