

MARGARET'S EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL LONELINESS IN TENNESSEE WILLIAM'S "A CAT ON THE HOT TIN ROOF"

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Abstract. This study concentrates to analyze Margaret's character about loneliness that experience by her in Tennessee William's *a Cat on the Hot Tin Roof*. Loneliness is unpleasant situation that experience by someone when the one's desire or ambition is not equivalent in social relationship. Furthermore, the source of the data is telling about someone who experiences loneliness which contains the type of loneliness, effect of loneliness and the effort to overcome from loneliness, consequently the theory of loneliness is chosen. Besides that, this study is qualitative design because the data are collected in the form of words. The data of this study are narrator's explanations and the character's utterances related to the loneliness experienced by Margaret and the writer has function as the key instrument in this research. According to the analysis of the drama, the writer has finds the answer of the research problem, that are types and effect of Margaret's loneliness and Margaret's effort to overcome or coping loneliness in Tennessee William *a Cat on the Hot Tin Roof*. There are two types of Margaret's loneliness, they are emotional and social loneliness.

Keywords: *loneliness, types of loneliness, causes of loneliness, effects of loneliness and coping loneliness*

INTRODUCTION

Losing of beloved someone is the condition that is very saddening in this life, and it will make someone feels the thing which is called loneliness. Peplau & Perlman defined the loneliness as a person's feeling of dissatisfaction with the desired results with the results they have (Aisyah, 2020). For example, when a woman divorces her husband, of course, she will live alone in her life. The divorce cause can be any reason like already feel incompatible with each other, there are many differences in understanding so they are not satisfied with the relationship anymore. Therefore, she will try to look for another partner to fill the emptiness of her life or another activity that can alleviate her mind from a sad feeling. If

she finds the activity that can help her to overcome her emptiness, so she will not leave that activity, and it makes it difficult to communicate with other people. Therefore, she feels an unpleasant situation in her life.

Hawkey and Cacioppo claim that loneliness is the distress that results from discrepancies between ideal and perceived social relationships (2006:1). It means that someone will get loneliness when she feels dissatisfaction to what she expects in the society. This situation makes her feels sadness and considers to enclose herself. The person like that will be more focuses on herself and has smaller friendship. Discussing about loneliness person, the writer tries to analyze one of Tennessee William's

dramas entitled *A Cat on the Hot Tin Roof* which has loneliness aspects in Margaret character. *A Cat on the Hot Tin Roof* talks much about psychological aspect, such as loneliness that is experienced by Margaret. Margaret is one of the characters in the drama who experiences loneliness in her life. She experiences loneliness because of the lack attention and love from her husband, Brick. Moreover, Margaret also gets isolation from Brick's family which cannot respect her and accept her as their family. It causes Margaret experiences loneliness in her life.

Related with the illustration above, this drama is going to be analyzed by using psychology of literature as the basic theory and focuses on loneliness theory. Davidoff states that psychology is study of mind or soul (1987: 6). (Endraswara, in the Melati, Warisma and Ismayani, 2019) defined that literature study that illustrates the effects of its development as a psychological practice is called literary psychology. The Author devotes all his feeling and taste for creating, likewise readers in reacting to works with all their hearts. In fact, literary psychology, like the sociology of reflection, also considers literary works as psychological reflection. Overall psychology learns about human behavior and personality. For example, someone who gets depression, of course before the person gets depression she has problems that make her mind or soul becomes complicated and confused. It makes the person can change her behavior. Furthermore, Hawkey & Cacioppo also add that loneliness is not synonymous with being alone, nor does being with others guarantee protection from feelings of loneliness (2006:1). It shows that loneliness is not implied as alone person but it is implied as the feeling of loneliness that is experienced by

the person. From the feeling of loneliness, it will bring the feeling of the person into lonely condition and situation in his or her life.

In addition, the kinds and effects of loneliness will be analyzed to identify Margaret's loneliness. Finally, the efforts of Margaret to overcome from her loneliness are analyzed.

METHOD

The research design is qualitative study. The source of data of this study is the drama entitled Margaret's Loneliness in Tennessee William's *a Cat on the Hot Tin Roof*. The data was taken from the character's utterances and narrator's explanation which represent loneliness. The key instrument of this study is the researcher. The data of this study was collected by reading and understanding the drama. In analyzing the data, this study includes several steps simultaneously.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Margaret's Emotional Loneliness

In this sub-chapter, the emotional loneliness which is experienced by Margaret is going to be explained. Margaret as the main character in the drama experiences a big emotional loneliness which is caused by her husband, Brick. In this case, Margaret feels unpleasant with Brick because Brick does not care to Margaret and he never pays attention to her. Brick always gives bad responses to Margaret when they are talking or gathering. It is explained by the author through the following narrations and utterances:

[...Water turns off and Brick calls out to her, but is still unseen. A tone of politely feigned interest, masking indifference, or

worse, is characteristic of his speech with Margaret.] (William, 1955. p.3)

The narration above describes the ways that Brick uses when he speaks to Margaret.

Based on the explanation above, the emotional loneliness of Margaret is caused by her husband, Brick who never cares about her and always acts rudely to her. The words "a tone of politely feigned interest" show that Brick pretends to love Margaret and interests to her as his wife by talking politely. However, actually he cares nothing about Margaret. It is strengthened by the word "masking indifference" which explains that during their marriage, Brick always tries to be a polite husband in order to hide his indifference to Margaret. He tries to make Margaret does not aware of his real feeling to her.

B. Margaret's Social Loneliness

The social loneliness is experienced by Margaret when she as a part of Brick's family is not respected and accepted in the family due to some reasons. The reasons which make Margaret fails to enter the family will be explained in this subchapter by showing the utterances or narrations that proof it. All of that can be seen in the following explanation:

...--It goes on all the time, along with constant little remarks and innuendoes about the fact that you and I have not produced any children, are totally childless and therefore totally useless! (William.1955, p.4)

The first reason that makes Margaret experienced social loneliness in Brick's family is childless. In this case,

Margaret cannot be respected in Brick's family because she cannot produce any children. It is strengthened by the words "I have not produced any children". While, her sister in law, Mae has five children with number six is coming. In a fact, Margaret is not barren. She cannot produce a child because Brick does not want to do it with Margaret. Brick cannot satisfy Margaret's desire to have a baby. However, this matter becomes a big problem in Margaret's live with Brick's family which does not respect Margaret as a woman due to her childless that is proven by the words "totally childless and therefore totally useless". The word useless means that Margaret will never be a part in Brick's family and she will never be respected while she is childless. Therefore, she gets a kind of isolation or rejection from Brick's family that makes her experienced a social loneliness.

C. The Effects of Margaret's Loneliness

The loneliness that experienced by Margaret is giving some effects to her life. First, she transforms to be rude and frantic person, her attitude is different than before. Second, she becomes talkative person and third is she finally becomes brave person who speaks out her opinion to Brick and the other family members bravely. Then, the effects that are created by

Margaret's loneliness to herself can be seen in the following discussion:

MARGARET: Well, I!--just remarked that!--one of th' no-neck monster messed up m' lovely lace dress so I got t' cha-a-ange... (William.1955, p.3)

Margaret emotional and social loneliness creates some great effects to Margaret personally. She transform into

rude and frantic person that can be shown from his rude words to Brick and another family members. It is proven by the utterances above which Margaret says to Mae and Gooper's children "one of th' no-neck monster". She is being rude by calling the children as no-neck monster because they are very fat and always mess her up like monster. She does not like them very much.

MARGARET: Big Daddy dotes on you, honey. And he can't stand Brother Man and Brother Man's wife, that monster of fertility, Mae; she's downright odious to him! ...

(William.1955, p.5)

Being rude is also shown by Margaret in these utterances. The words "that monster of fertility" are the rude words that Margaret uses to call her sister in law, Mae. It describes how Margaret does not like her very much because Mae always disturbs and teases her due to her condition that childless and Brick who becomes a drunkard. Moreover, Mae always tries to freeze Brick and Margaret out from Big Daddy's heritage because she wants that heritage only gets by her and his husband, Gooper. Therefore, Margaret is being rude to Mae by calling her as monster of fertility who has five children and downright odious to Big Daddy.

D. Adaptation's Ways to Cope the Loneliness

In this part, the ways of how Margaret overcomes her loneliness are described. According to Perlman and Peplau's three ways of coping loneliness, Margaret uses the first way that is changing one's desired level of social contact. This way is divided into three parts, they are adaptation, task choice, and change standards. Based on the

Margaret's loneliness experiences in the drama, she uses the part of adaptation to overcome her loneliness. She uses adaptation to overcome her emotional loneliness due to her husband, Brick's attitude. All of Margaret's ways to cope her loneliness are described in the following explanation.

From the previous discussion, it can be described that Margaret experiences loneliness in her life, because she is lack of communication with her husband, Brick and also from Brick's family. Consequently, Margaret tries to find a way to overcome her loneliness. In this case, Margaret uses a way of adaptation which means that she tries very hard to adapt with the uncomfortable situation which is created by his husband, Brick and his family. However, this way of adaptation is only used by her to overcome her emotional loneliness that is explained in the utterances below.

BRICK [softly
but sharply]: Do we?

MARGARET:
Do we what?

BRICK: Know Big Daddy's
dyin' of cancer?

MARGARET: Got the report
today

BRICK: Oh...

MARGARET: Yep, got th' report just
now... it didn't surprise me, Baby...

(William.1955, p.4-5)

Brick is Margaret's husband who never cares to his surrounding, included his wife, his family and everything that he thinks it is not important to get his attention. He does not care to his wife, give her lack of attention and does not want to satisfy her desire to have children. He just cares to his liquor. Therefore, he is

the last member of family who always gets the report or news about family matters or family members lately and he does not care about that. However, as a wife, Margaret very knows and understands of those her husband's bad attitude. She always tries to adapt with them and does not surprise anymore with her husband's bad attitude or his last position to get the news in family.

It is shown in the utterances which explain that Brick does not know that Big Daddy is dying of cancer while the other family's members know it. The words "do we?" and "know Big Daddy's dyin' of cancer?" describe how Brick does not know and does not get the news about Big Daddy who is dying of cancer now. However, Margaret with her adaptation of her husband attitude does not surprise with this case and as usual, she just take it easy by saying "Yep, got th' report just now... it didn't surprise me, Baby..."

Did you have a nice shower?

BRICK: Uh-huh.

MARGARET: Was the water cool?

BRICK: No. (William.1955, p.9)

Margaret tries very hard to adapt with her emotional loneliness which is created by her husband who does not care to anything around him and give her lack communication and cannot satisfy her desire. The adaptation that is done by Margaret to overcome her loneliness is she tries to adapt and open her mind to accept all of bad attitude and indifferent of her husband. Then, she never gives up to give seduce and persuade for her husband in order to make him love and care about herself, so she can satisfy her desire as a woman and wife. She tries to

adapt and take it easy for her although her husband does not care to her, even rudely rejects her attention and shows the indifference to her. However, she always tries to be a good wife and pays attention to Brick.

The attention that Margaret tries to give for her husband is shown by the words "Did you have a nice shower?" From the utterances, it is described that Margaret tries to give attention to her husband who has already taken a bath. She asks whether his shower is nice or not. It is a kind of Margaret's small attention to her husband in order to make her husband change his indifference to her and begin to care about her. Although Brick gives indifference answers to her, however, she just takes it easy and still gives attention to Brick. It shows how Margaret adapts with her husband's bad attitude by continuing to ask a thing that can make his husband comfort although her husband just gives indifference answers, she always opens her mind to accept it.

CONCLUSION

Based on all of the discussion on this research, it can be concluded that someone who experiences loneliness is divided into three kinds of loneliness, effect of loneliness and the last is the way to overcome the loneliness. This research analyzes Margaret's character in Tennessee William's drama entitled *A Cat on the Hot Tin Roof*. According to theory that is used, kinds of loneliness is divided into four, they are positive, negative loneliness and emotional, social loneliness. Margaret who experiences loneliness in the drama only gets the two kinds of loneliness, namely emotional and social loneliness.

The emotional loneliness that experience by Margaret is feels unsatisfactory relation with Brick where she does not get intimate relation from Brick. Therefore, she cannot produce a child.

Then, the social loneliness in which Margaret tries to communicate with Brick's family members that underestimate her never considers her in the family hence Margaret feels isolated and suffered of social loneliness.

Moreover, the two kinds of loneliness that are experienced by Margaret give a change for her attitude or personality. The change is Margaret become hard and frantic woman to others.

When she is talking about Mae's kiddies seen in her attitude and words that she hates them because she cannot have a child. She always speaks impolitely to Brick or even to Brick's family, such as Brick's sister in law, Mae. Besides that, she also transforms to be talkative and anxious person. Therefore, Margaret tries to overcome her loneliness by using the way of adaptation.

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