

Psychological Experience as Nudge of Feminism Spirit in Butterfly Novel by Dot Hutchinson: A *Lacanian Analysis*

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Abstract: The study is to illustrate the issue of a psychological experience that led to the feminist spirit in the novel *The butterfly* by Dot hutchison. The study was reviewed from a psychological experience in one of the characters in the butterfly. The experience of one of the characters leads to the woman whose feminism in the novel is strong enough. So, it actually employs lacanian theory which, judging from symbols, the structure of the human mind leads to psychological experience and to feminism. Finally, this research will find things that will lead to a psychological experience that leads to the feminist.

Keywords: *feminist spirit, lacanian analysis, psychological experience, the butterfly*

RESEARCH BACKGROUND

The Butterfly Garden is Dot Huchison's first novel. This novel focuses on a butterfly gardener who has very big ambitions, collecting various kinds of butterflies in his garden. Kidnapping girls at the age of 10 years, the gardener gives a butterfly stare on her side. The kidnapping of the girls is the ambition of the Gardener and also his two children. Park rangers, Avery, and Desmond (father and two children) are trapped in the desire to collect the beauty of butterflies in the middle of a butterfly garden. Butterflies here can be interpreted as two things, butterflies are animals and also 'butterflies' as we remember from a prostitute. The launch of this stunning Hutchison Collectors Trilogy will thrill and annoy even the most seasoned criminal reader. Even fans of serial killer thrillers will fall for the villains in the stories; fans of police procedure will love the writer's scalable and expert plot. This novel raises many things, and many lessons can be found by reading this novel.

The *Butterfly* differentiates itself from its "serial killer thriller" peers with its unique premise: a serial killer has been captured, and it's now up to the FBI to piece together what happened through an interview with one of the killer's survivors. The premise of this story is simple: a survivor recounts the unimaginable ordeal she has survived to the FBI. The reading experience, however, is much more complex. The majority of the story is spent in flashback, exploring the main character Maya's experience in the "Garden," with her present-day interview with the FBI used to establish guideposts that orient the reader to the crucial moments of Maya's twisted journey. This alternating storyline was utterly gripping.

Beyond the story's effective structure, its content itself makes for simply unputdownable reading material. At the heart of this brutal story is a killer with an almost poetic sensibility; the Gardener is a man who loves beauty so much, he seeks it out and preserves it forever although, in this case, his idea of "preserving beauty" means capturing, branding, and killing innocent young women. Hutchison's writing is nothing if not visceral. Hutchison has struck an elegant balance in her writing; in this case, she walks a fine line between the brutality of the crimes she writes about and the almost refined way she describes them.

She has many names, her birth one, her fake I.D. one, the one her old roommates called her, and, of course, the name the Gardener gave her - just one of the things that comes with living in the Garden. The Garden is full of secrets, where flowers grow and trees tower above huge cliffs and ponds. But the garden also houses dozens of other girls just like her - young, kidnapped women who are not only renamed, but trapped in soundproof chambers and marked with butterfly wings on their backs as gifts from their kidnapper, who they call the Gardener. The story follows the reality these Butterflies live, and die in, including their eventual escape from the Garden. When the FBI begins investigating and taking control of the situation at hand, she is brought in for questioning, where she begins unveiling all of the terror the Garden holds, including tales of a deluded gardener that would go to any length to preserve beauty, even if that meant conserving deceased Butterflies in resin on their 21st birthdays.

The Butterfly Garden is constructed around the lies and secrets of all of the character's past and current lives. Therefore, the theme falls into the category of illusions vs. reality. For starters, the Gardener bases his Garden after an imaginative world where he can preserve and capture an endless amount of beauty without consequence. Outside of the Garden, his life is mostly a mystery, but we know he is some type of millionaire/billionaire, so it's hard to imagine he does much else than work. For him, the Garden is most likely an escape from his real life - his wife, his work, etc. The theme of illusion and reality also clashes with the Butterflies as they struggle to remember their identities, families, and friends outside of the Garden. The more they cooperated with the Gardener and his desires, the harder it was for them to remember where they came from. For instance, Maya/Inara notes, "Nazira was an artist, and she filled sketchbook after sketchbook with her family and friends. She drew outfits she'd loved, her home and school, the little swing set in the city park where she'd gotten her first kiss. She drew them over and over, and panicked if the details ever changed or got fuzzy" (Hutchison 176). The Butterflies were so warped and infused with the fake lives they were given while living in the Garden, that their actual, real lives were becoming fuzzy and foreign. This theme is similar to that in *We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart. The book tells the story of Cadence Sinclair, a girl who is stuck in her delusional reality because she is scared of facing the real world, such as the Gardener is with his real life outside of the Garden. Cadence hates what her life has come to and imagines all of the ways she can die and live in her fantasy world. Cadence even goes as far as to illustrate a graphic, metaphorical situation of her death, "Then he pulled out a handgun and shot me in the chest. I was standing on the lawn and I fell. The bullet hole opened wide and my heart rolled out of my rib cage and down into a flower bed. Blood gushed rhythmically from my open wound, then from my eyes, my ears, my mouth" (Lockhart 42). Cadence is just hoping for any kind of escape from reality, even if that means escape by death. In both books, the characters are seen struggling with their own versions of reality as illusions of fantasies allow them to escape the truths of their real lives.

The writer of *The Butterfly Garden*, Dot Hutchison, is specific and meaningful with all of her stylistic choices. Most notable is the fact that the story is told from alternating, dual points of view. The book is cut into different sections, of which are scrambled between a third-person narrator, FBI agent Victor, and Maya/Inara, the Butterfly. The third-person narrator is useful, because it serves as a connection between parts of the story narrated by Maya/Inara. It also usually explains the thoughts and emotions of all of the characters. Specifically giving insight as to what the FBI agents think of Maya/Inara's answers, such as when they begin questioning what she isn't telling them stating, "Whatever she's hiding - and he agrees with Eddison, she's hiding something important - she's so focused on it that other things are starting to slip" (Hutchison 143). Additionally, the book is not structured as a typical one is, such as there are no chapters. There are only three dividing sections, I, II and III. Therefore, the tension in the book rises at a slow speed, but stays pretty high the whole time. This book does a great job of blurring crime and mystery in a dark and twisted way by describing things in such detail. There

are a lot of graphic scenes, which can make it uncomfortable to read at times given the considerable attention to detail. The writer also did an amazing job of developing the characters in a way that allowed the reader to determine for themselves who was good and who was bad, such as Lorraine who is described early on as “someone so desperate to please the Gardener that she was perfectly willing to help him do whatever he wanted to other people if he would just love her” (Hutchison 63). Those who were questionable, such as Lorraine, only added to the overall suspense of the book.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

1. Psychological Depression, Feminism and Self-Realisation in Paulo Coelho’s Veronika Decides to Die (2019)

This research was written by Kumar Gaurav, majoring in English at Lalit Narayan Mithila University 2019. The purpose of this study was to uncover the themes of psychological depression, feminism, and self-realization. In this paper, the researcher through the analysis of *Veronika Decides to Die* elaborates the main themes of the psychology of depression, feminism, and self-analysis. In this writing, Veronika shows her conflict with sentient beings. The character faces an imbalance between death and life instincts. In addition, an incomplete sense of identity creates a monotony in the events of his life where the characters find things simple and boring. The inner conflict causes the medical condition of psychological depression and leads to commit suicide. A painting depicting death as poetic and something that should have ended his life is more colorful. So the researcher reveals that this paper also highlights the depiction of feminism in the book. Feminism in this book is highlighted by Villette. Where are the people? depicted by madmen and asylum represents a patriarchal society. and also researchers reveal that Prison was designed to accommodate the utopian feminist dream of freedom. Finally, the researcher sees from the section that the theme of self-realization is supported through various discoveries that Veronika can do in the healing process from depression. Then the character finds her power to feel sexual desire and independence as a powerful way to escape from a self-imposed prison. He truly felt the need to live and experience happiness that he had never felt.

2. Interpretation of Typical Image of Pessimistic Feminism in Henry James' Psychological Realism Novels (2021)

This study was written by Jie Chen, College of Foreign Languages, Bohai University, Jinzhou, China. The researchers found that the ideal woman in James' mind is someone who has political ability and integrity, with a spirit of independence and traditional female values, in accordance with the spirit of freedom and moral vitality of America, and is rich in European experience and wisdom. The researchers see that James' contradictory views on women arise from two aspects: one is that he is strongly influenced by the patriarchal consciousness of his father and brother, showing a preference for traditional women; the other is that it is inextricably linked to his cultural outlook and is the absolute protagonist of James' international theme. Then, the researchers see that attitudes towards women are influenced by cultural views and are reflected in new depictions of women. Pessimistic feminism and socio-cultural feminism expressed in James' pen have been the key to James' interpretation and opened the window of James' literature. Therefore, the image of pessimistic feminism in the novel is divided into several types, considering the different levels of culture and maturity of women in different cultural circumstances.

3. The Negotiation of Compulsory Romance in Young Women Friends' Stories about Romantic Heterosexual Experiences (2017)

This research by Korobov and Thorne tells us how to know the negotiation of compulsory romance in young women friend's stories. So, this research uses discursive analysis conducted to define what engagement and resistance looked like in practice. The impetus for this analysis is thus related to how these young women assimilate counter positions to their involvement and resistance, as a way to make their position rhetorically strong. In doing this, the researchers have tried to pinpoint some of the ideological dilemmas that are circulating within mandatory romance discursive climates. On the one hand, the young woman who rejects the obligatory romantic norm may seem independent, knowing, and autonomous, as seen in Mara's story in Excerpt 3 about her overzealous suitor. But, excessive resistance can be expensive. An unnatural lack of interest in 'getting a man', for example, might indicate that a person is lacking in some way or perhaps undesirable (see Reynolds et al., 2007), as seen in Sue's talk in Quote 4 about dressing up for Joe and repeatedly showing up at his house. Thus researchers looking at this type of focus will spur new thinking on the question of young women's development, where the notions of 'ideological agility' and 'social fluency' are central. The researcher concludes that a feminist and critical discursive approach to the construction of mandatory romance is expected to stimulate future exploration of the discursive position of romantic ideology among diverse groups of women.

4. Ephebophilia Suffered by the Main Character in the Novel Lolita by Nabokov (2017)

In this research, Amelia and Dintasi have provided an overview of ephebophilia in the main character, Humbert, that the characteristics of ephebophilia can be seen clearly through the construction of ephebophilia, sexual attraction, an sexual fantasy. Humbert's construction of ephebophilia is the result of his sexual encounter with annabel. They met when they were teenagers, however, Annabel died not long after they got their first chance to make love. Humbert had become fixated on Annabel ever since he lost her. he can't let go of his memories and his sexual relationship with her. She becomes the "ideal" type of woman for him and eventually leads to sexual orientation. He is only interested in girls in their teenage years and when he meets Dolores (Lolita). He becomes crazy about him. Ephebophilia focuses not only on sexual intercourse, but also on sexual attraction. an ephebophile derives satisfaction from having sexual fantasies with young girls. Humbert, in this case, is interested in Lolita. Humbert thought her physical appearance was similar to Annabel's. Humbert receives sex pleasure to see her body. Nabokov described the main character as a desperate middle-aged man who stick to his desires and enjoy the sexual pleasures of much younger girls. even though the novel once considered a porn novel, lolita has been shown to serve beyond sexual depiction. Novels have provided a story and description of a man who has gone through some suffering due to his desire for younger girls. Nabokov is able to present to readers the sadness and dilemma experienced by the main character who desperately needs help. He learned more about this source text required for additional translation of information feedback and side panel history.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research used a qualitative method, then the source of the research data used was the Novel The Butterfly by Dot Hutchinson. This research began by collecting data from the fictional story including the narratives and dialogues related to psychological experiences that lead to a feminist spirit. The data were collected, analyzed, and concluded without making any generalizations. This paper applied library research in data collection techniques because all

data were taken from novels. The first method in collecting data was to read the data sources comprehensively. The second was to identify data related to ephebophilia. The third was classifying and compiling data for analysis. The fourth was to analyze the characters more deeply in the novel, how the nature of the characters in the dialogue and narrative.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Feminist Spirit

June Hannam (2007) in her book of Feminism, the word feminism can be interpreted as: a recognition of an imbalance of power between the sexes, with woman in a subordinate role to men. In this novel, there is a narrative that defines where this feminist is in this novel:

"And I thought how unfair her choice was to turn us into butterflies, of all things possible. Real butterflies can fly freely away from clutches. Mr. Butterfly Gardeners can only fall, that's rare too."

Mr. Gardener has a sick wife and two sons. He is a handsome and rich middle-aged man and somewhat, his obsession with beauty makes it easy for him to kidnap young girls to be tattooed all over their backs – as a sign of ownership – with butterfly wings motifs that he thinks fit citing one sentence:

"He used to do light-colored wing tattoos for dark-skinned girls, maybe so the color wouldn't sink in.",

Then, he re-baptized them all with the new name he chose. Every now and then, he beats them in turns. Other than that, the girls were allowed to do whatever they liked – playing cards, dancing, reading books, even making clay crafts. Considering that it all happened in a giant garden that was described as early and beautiful, the impression was indeed like a trip. At least until we know that every time a girl turns 21, she's killed, then preserved in formaldehyde for display behind giant mirrors along the corridor. From the above narratives, the feminist in this book has become the most important thing. Because the discussion of a woman is so thick, with how a man behaves towards a woman, women who are told to do things that shouldn't be in their place. A woman who is locked up and afraid to get out. Their proverbs are just like butterflies in this book. The issues that have been present since reading her book are the things that become the main benchmark for feminists. How does the man treat women properly: where a woman should not be considered like a butterfly that can only be enjoyed by its beauty, restrained and not allowed to go out anywhere? So, this discussion discusses the issue of the feminist spirit contained in this book. It contains how feminist works in the book *The Butterfly* by Dot Hutchinson.

3.2 Lacanian Analysis

Jacques Lacan (1980) tell us lacanian psychoanalysis is a theoretical system that explains the mind, behavior, and culture through a structuralism and post-structuralism extension of classical psychoanalysis. In the novel *The Butterfly* by Dot Hutchinson, the analysis is seen from the various symbols in the novel. A symbol or a situation that can be read as how the main character has the turmoil of a psychological experience that leads to her feminist. The following is the narrative in the novel:

"It was the same tenderness he showed to all of his Butterflies, soft and sincere in a way that sent spiders crawling under my skin." (Hutchinson 95)

"Like anything else in that place, it was made up of the whole cloth of our ignorance." (Hutchinson 9)

So, this situation describes the urgency and fear of the main character in the story of this novel where lacanian analysis is one way to find out the situation in a novel and describes the main character's concerns in her psychological problems; how the situation was formed affecting different conditions that exist in a novel. Then, the next urgency is to find out her psychological condition which leads to feminist. Mind is one of the reasons for analyzing the analysis which interferes with their psychic disorders and also the main character in the novel's story. By using this analysis, we can look at the parts of the symbol and also a sign that is in the narrative, including the narrative given at the top.

"My secrets are old friends. I would feel like a poor friend if I abandoned them now." (Hutchinson 114)

Besides that, feeling in a novel is also a sign. So, we know the issues that exist in a novel precisely in its psychic atmosphere and others.

3.3 Psychological Experience

The issue of psychological experience contained in the novel *The Butterfly* by Dot Hutchison is very simple where there is a survivor from an environment that is squeezed and cannot come out. Then, a survivor recounts the unimaginable ordeal that he went through. Then, he told the FBI what he had been through.

"I found myself equal parts repulsed and hooked on the dark truths it unveils to the reader, and despite my constant eagerness to get back to the story's flashbacks, I was equally glad for the framework that the interspersed interview scenes provided"

"Three butterflies for a broken girl: one for personality, one for possession, and one for pettiness." (Hutchison 134)

From the narrative above, we can see that the next issue is about the psychological experience. How Maya told a heavy experience to the FBI and trauma occurred to her. Where she feels afraid and feels like a woman who is treated like a butterfly, and how she survives in such a situation. The issue of having a psychological experience makes him a little bit disturbed by his psyche because of a haunting fear. The fear haunted him, which caused a psychological disorder to occur to him, so that the issue of a psychological experience in this novel has a large enough opportunity for the main character. How Maya can get out of a shackle is enough to identify her psychological disorders. How sorry she is for the listeners, especially the FBI who will investigate the case until finally Maya was handled by parties who understand more about psychological disorders, where she sometimes still feels scared when she sees men or someone around her. So from that psychological experience, she will have a considerable impact on people who already have that experience. The process of the wound healing takes quite a long time. Therefore, from this novel, we can understand that if a woman already has a disorder or has experience with a psychologist, her psychological experience is heavy. So, it will make some people, especially women in the outline presented in their novels, have quite heavy and ongoing trauma, so that it will take a long time to recover as usual.

CONCLUSION

The researcher concludes that psychological experience is present when the main character in the novel *The Butterfly* by Dot Hutchison experiences a psychological disorder due to being confined in a park for a long time which they are considered like a butterfly that only enjoyed its beauty. Besides, it raises an issue about feminist in a novel. *The Butterfly Garden* author, Dot Hutchison, is very specific and meaningful with all of her stylistic choices. What stands out most is that the story is told from alternating multiple points of view. The book is cut into

different parts, some of which are scrambled between the third-person narrator, FBI agent Victor, and Maya, the Butterfly in question. The third person narrator is useful because it serves as a link between parts of the story narrated by Maya. It also explains the thoughts and emotions of all the characters. In particular, it provides insight into what the FBI agents had in mind about Maya answers, such as when they started asking what she didn't tell her. "Whatever he was hiding – and he agreed with Eddison, he was hiding something important – he was so focused on it that other things started to slip" (Hutchison 143). From there, it can be seen that issues have arisen from the feminist where women are one of the objects in this novel.

From the novel *The Butterfly* by Dot Hutchinson, there are three discussion points that the research gets. First is the feminist spirit that the female main character shows. She became the kind of butterfly that can only be enjoyed by its beauty, restrained, and not allowed to go out anywhere. So, the main characters tried to go out from the place that they shouldn't be. But, they are afraid to get out, still, they are trying to do so. This is the indication of action from the female main character that shown by the author to represent the act of feminist. Second is the lacanian analysis of the female main character. Lacanian analysis used by the researcher is to identify how the psychological development of main character grows. The main character illustrates how she is afraid of the outside then she tried to go out and show her feminist side. Third is psychological experience from the novel. Maya is having a mental disorder. So, from those bad experiences that have been explained in the novel, she has a difficult interaction especially when someone touches her, it makes her afraid and she feels her trauma comes back. So, in this part, the researchers try to figure out from the psychological experience of the main character and blend with the lacanian analysis and the feminist spirit shown in the novel.

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