

**A STUDY OF CHANGING CHARACTER SHOWED  
BY JODI IN *THE SILENT WIFE* NOVEL BY A.S.A HARRISON**

**THESIS**

**Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Sarjana Degree at  
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This thesis contains of material which has been accepted for the award of Sarjana Degree of English Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. To the best my knowledge and belief. It contains no material previously published or written by other person except where due reference is made in the text of the thesis.

Surabaya, November 10<sup>th</sup> 2017

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## THESIS ADVISOR'S APPROVAL

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## INTISARI

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Jodi adalah karakter dalam novel *The Silent Wife* yang mengisahkan secara mendalam kehidupan Jodi juga antara cinta dan hubungan yang tragis. Dia adalah seorang konselor yang memiliki sebuah klinik. Dia melayani semua klien-kliennya, mereka semua meminta solusi atas permasalahan mereka. Namun, di sisi lain Jodi menjadi seorang pembunuh. Skripsi ini berfokus pada analisis perubahan karakter pada Jodi dalam jalan cerita novel dan juga bagaimana penyebab perubahan karakter pada Jodi. Skripsi ini menggunakan teori *New Criticism*. Dalam melakukan proses analisis ini, penulis menggunakan teknik bercerita, bagaimana pengarang secara langsung menjelaskan tentang karakter tokohnya, dan sikap kepribadiannya, dan penulis juga menunjukkan kepada pembaca tentang karakter yang muncul dari cara berbicara, bereaksi atau berpikir untuk belajar tentang karakter Jodi. Penulis menyimpulkan bahwa perubahan karakter pada Jodi merupakan atas tekanan permasalahan yang dialaminya sehingga menjadikan dampak buruk di kehidupannya.

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. The Background of Study

Oftentimes, the character is equated with the term character or character. However, it is different. People are the actors in a fiction, while the character refers to the term character which means the condition of the soul or the nature of the character. So, the character is the actor who is in the work of fiction, while the character or character is a behavior that fills the character. (Bimoseno,1). Meanwhile, The character of the story according to Abrams (in Nurgiyantoro, 2000: 165) is the person displayed in a work of narrative, or drama which the reader is interpreted to have a certain moral quality and tendency as expressed in speech and what is done in action. (Fajrin, 2016). So, character is a character is an actor who carries an event in a fictional story so that the event is able to establish a story.

According to Kennedy and Gionia, there are some types of characters. They are flat, round, major, minor, protagonist, and antagonist (78). In this study the writer will be discuss about round character on the literary work especially on the novel. Wellek and Warren “Round” characterization, like “dynamic,” requires space and emphasis; hence is ordinarily combined with “flat” treatment of background figures the”chorus”. (227). in the discussion of





action and reaction; convey certain messages for the purpose of education, information and entertainment. (Language in India, 192). So, the connection between literature with society is the reality that occurs in a society it's reflects in the form of a work, of the work is good or bad value. Literature an expression of someone in mind, speech or action both based on personal experience and others, which then reflected in a work aimed at education, information, and entertainment.

Based on the fact that occurred in society that the murder of the couple to make an event that is reflected in a work that one of them as in the novel of A.S.A Harrison's novel is *The Silent Wife*. A.S.A. Harrison's novel entitled *Silent* is a one of literary work which was published in United State. The Washington Post reveals that this novel is all about a murder (Blumenstock, 2013) from told about the murder committed by a woman can be named a wife that is Jodi Brett then, goodreads adds that "A chilling psychological thriller about a marriage, a way of life, and how far one woman will go to keep what is rightfully hers". Blumenstock moreover adds that "this novel tell about psychological thriller of a wife". This novel describes human condition with their conflicts and tragic. According in novel *Silent wife* Jodi has a complex and figures out his emotions character. Then, her husband named Todd was betrayal of her has strong character.

Based on explanation above, the writer is really interested and intends to analyze the intrinsic elements focused on the character and cause Jodi's

changing character in A.S.A Harrison's *The Silent Wife* especially on Jodi's life. The writer chooses A.S.A Harrison' novel is because Jodi an unforgettable character when she faced conflict with her husband and her surroundings who is becomes the changing character on the Jodi figure in *The Silent Wife* novel. The reason why the development of Jodi's character becomes an interesting topic is because A.S.A Harrison was described Jodi in the novel she is a psychotherapist and was stayed with Todd that he is as husband of Jodi. Jodi and Todd's happy life for twenty years brought tragically because of Jodi was killed of Todd the writer as she develop such a love tragic relationship. This story also was dibrated and thriller then writer expected as two discovers what are changing character of Jodi that writer depicted in the story line. Therefore, the writer is also interested to analyze the cause of Jodi's changing character.

The work selected is debut psychological thriller novel by A.S.A.Harrison entitled *The Silent Wife*. For one thing, it was selected as one of the best book of 2013 by "Quill & Quire, the Canadian book trade magazine, notes on its website, "Harrison was on the cusp of international success with *The Silent Wife*, which is to be published in June by Penguin Canada." (Quill 2013), and has been translated into over 32 languages. It became a New York Time Best Seller on June 25, 2013, and has sold more than 750,000 copies worldwide. *The Silent Wife* novel also goes to the nomination of goodreadsChoice Award 2013.





### 1.3. Objective of Study

According to the statement of the problems, the purposes of the study are:

1. To describe Jodi's changing characters according to story line in A.S.A. Harrison's *The Silent Wife* novel.
2. To find out cause of Jodi's changing characters in A.S.A. Harrison *The Silent Wife* novel.

### 1.4. Significant of Study

The significances of this study are, generally, to give a widespread overview about theoretically, the writer does hope that the study enriches the reader's development of knowledge in the literary theory that is related to New Criticism, especially on character, plot, and the writer use physiological approach to identifying cause of Jodi's changing character, this approach as supporting the study as tool to find out cause Jodi's changing character. Therefore, the readers expected to comprehend more about it, especially for those who are having interest in the study of character and cause of Jodi's changing throughout literature. This study expects to give more knowledge about that to the reader.

Practically, it can also be applied in several side of life, especially to the common readers. By having well understanding about New Criticism, the readers will be more understand to the set of the experience in our life. At last, this study can be considered as a contribution to the







## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Theoretical Framework

This chapter discusses about theoretical explanation to the related concepts and materials which are suitable to the literary work. The theory is New Criticism. New Criticism is theory for this study and it is used to find out the changing characters of the main character in story line of the literary work and use psychological approach to find out cause of the changing character of the main character.

##### 2.1.1 New Criticism

New Criticism was standard method which dominated literary studies from 1940s until 1960s (Tyson 129). Further, some of its most important concepts concerning the nature and importance of textual evidence (the use of concrete, specific example text itself to validate the interpretations). Have been incorporated into the way most literary critics today, regardless of the theoretical persuasion, support readings of literature. Its supports for literary interpretations because the New Critics introduced to America and called "close reading". (129). All the evidence provided by the language of the text itself: its images, symbols, metaphors, rhyme, meter, point of view, setting, characterization and plot, and so forth, because they form or shape the literary





New Criticism claim the text itself is the only source that a critic should focus on, so text as the only reference. It also deals with how a work can be read objectively and accurately by examining the structure and form (Sharma 709).

New criticism aims to classify, categorize, and catalog works according to their formal attributes are the elements that from the literary work. Those elements include symbol, image, metaphor, setting, point of view, characterization and plot (Tyson 138). So, the reader can interpret the literary work by reading the text and understand the evidence of the text with those formal attributes.

#### **2.1.1.1 Character**

Since the main character is being analyzed, it is important to include character and characterization because from those concepts the reader can understand the whole story of novel. Character takes the great roles in the novel since it is the first element intrinsic. Character is the first focus when the reader reads the novel.

By analyzing his or her speech and action as well as what other characters said about him. Abrams states the character is the name of a literary genre' it is a short, and usually witty, sketch in prose of a distinctive type person (Abrams 32). A character represents a subject. It is about who the doer in the story is.



Bennett and Royle in *A book Introduction to Literature, Criticism and Theory* explain that Characters are the life of literature: they are the objects of our curiosity and fascination, affection and dislike, admiration and condemnation. Indeed, so intense is our relationship with literary characters that they often cease to be simply 'objects'. (73) Character has an important role in a story. It is not only as a pawn that makes the story alive but also viewed as a strategic position to carry a message or something that the author wants to convey in the story. So, character is the fictional people that become a part of the action in a literary work (Stanford in Rosyid 11). Usually, character represents a person becomes something interested in the story.

Characters can be divided into some categories. Koesnobroto says that we can distinguish the types of characters. They are minor and major characters, protagonist and antagonist, and flat and round ( Koesnobroto in Zahroh 10). While Maden (qtd. In Novelinda Sari 12), says that when characters lack the development that seems to bring them to life, lack the complexity that lets us know them as we know people in our own lives, and seem to represent "types" more than real personalities, they are called flat or stock characters. They are especially convenient for writers of commercial fiction: they require little detailed portraiture, for we already know them well. Although stock characters tend to have single dominant virtues and vices, characters in the finest contemporary short stories tend to have many facets,



Moreover DiYanni, the major character is sometimes called a protagonist whose conflict with an antagonist may spark the story's conflict. Supporting the major character are one or more secondary or minor characters whose function is partly to illuminate the major character. Minor characters are often static or unchanging: they remain the same from the beginning of a work to the end (55). Madden (qtd. In Novelinda Sari) says, when we find a character or characters who seem to be a major force in opposition to the protagonist, that character is called the antagonist (66). So, there are some types of characters, namely; flat, round, major, minor, protagonist, and antagonist character.

By studying character in a novel, someone can acquire the knowledge about character types of human being since character is representation of human life. Character becomes a prominent thing in this study since it focuses on the main named Jodi.

#### **2.1.1.2 Characterization**

Characterization is one of important elements in narrative work. Characterization is the process by which the writer reveals the personality of a character. As Holman said that characterization is the creation of these imaginary persons, so that they exist for the reader as real within the limits of the fiction and have ability to characterize the people of one's imagination















## CHAPTER III

### ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the study analyzes Jodi as the main character in the novel. This chapter explains about the data based on the research problems stated in the first chapter the data are including in the narration of the novel and also dialog or conversations among the characters. First is changing character was happened on Jodi, after knowing changing character on Jodi that explain in the story line on the novel, it will help to analyze next problem. After having about changing character, this study is going to answer the cause of changing character on Jodi.

#### **3.1 The Portrayal of Jodi's Changing Character**

##### **3.1.1 Exposition:**

###### **3.1.1.1 Jodi's character as a patient and care**

Her name is Jodi Brett. Everybody calls her Jodi. Jodi has a couple in her life was named Todd. She is regard of Todd as her husband because they have lived together during twenty years. She is a counselor. As far they are lived together Jodi becomes the good girl or Todd's wife. She has good

















“Don’t be silly,” she says. “You’re under the weather, that’s all. I’ll make up the bed for you. Why don’t you lie down here until it’s ready.” (Harrison 115-116).

When Todd came home he stood in front of the door while supporting his body like a drunken person because he was not could be drunk but because of food poisoning or a burger that Todd ate when he was at the bar. Then he felt like crying, giving up, and surrendering. then he saw Jodi was on the couch with her legs folded under her body, not reading a magazine or cook book and Todd put her head on her shoulder. Then, Todd tells Jodi that he has ruined his lunch. But Jodi responded well that it was not the thing that made the problem, then Jodi immediately cook food for Todd. Todd also told Jodi that he was not a good husband, but Jodi dodge it and immediately tidied up the bed for Todd.

How is it that her life has arrived at this implausible culminating moment when she’s done her best for so many years to make things work, to be helpful and accommodating, a good wife and companion, often in adverse and trying circumstances? Todd is not an easy man to live with, and yet she’s made a success of it, held things together, created and maintained a peaceful, agreeable life for the two of them. (Harrison 138).

From the above quotation it can be seen that Jodi very kind. During Jodi life with Todd what has been done Jodi managed to make it has a very good and forgiving nature. Because living with Todd was not easy to set





in war movies, with thugs in uniform breaking down the door and dragging her off in the night. She imagines an act of betrayal by one of the people she habitually opens the door to: a client, the doorman, the boy who delivers her groceries. In lucid moments she understands that these worries are irrational. If they're going to come for her they'll come during the day, and Todd will let them in with his key. But it's at night that she feels most afraid. Between sunset and dawn there is no period of time when she feels safe. (Harrison 217)

Jodi thought something bad would happen to her like a war movie with a uniformed criminal breaking the door and dragging her out at night. Jodi imagined the act of betrayal done by people she met like her client, doorman, kid who delivered groceries. All that consciously she was worried about all that does not make sense, fearful thinking if it happened someone coming to drive them they come during the day and Todd opened the door with his key Jodi will feel frightened at night and only a little time he can feel safe. All the fears and anxiety were imagined in Jodi's thinking.

When only Jodi's sleeping pills to calm her down and because she is late sleep less.

The one thing she needs to get her hands on is sleeping pills. The OTC brands don't work, and to get a prescription she would need to see a doctor. She's thought about trying an Internet source, but buying drugs online would be like buying them on the street. Sleeplessness has never been a problem in the past, but lately it's gotten so bad that she's been blanking out and seeing double. She wishes now that she had saved Natasha's eszopiclone. Giving it to Todd accomplished nothing. (Harrison 218).























couples run a pre-fabricated business that Todd, Jodi and Todd hate often encounter the couple during the winter in a row

At least he does his best to be discreet and as a rule does not advance on her friends, although there have been times. There was a couple they used to be chummy with, people they met on vacation in the Caribbean and bonded with over margaritas and snorkeling lessons. The couple ran a business selling prefab cottages, and Todd had nothing but contempt for this. Nonetheless, for several winters running they made a point of meeting up with this couple at designated resorts. She suspected that Todd and Sheila had something going on but put it out of her mind until the afternoon they disappeared from the poolside and reappeared a while later looking like cats who had lapped up a big bowl of cream. This alone she might have overlooked, but then there were the subtle displacements in Todd's swimming trunks and the dab of something gelatinous glistening in his chest hair. (Harrison 31)

Jodi suspects Todd that Todd is having an affair with Sheila, the wife Sheila and Jodi's friend. Jodi feels that Todd is having an affair with his friend Sheila, but with that suspicion Jodi still thinks positively to Todd and this suspicion is sort of natural because a woman can sense whatever her partner does if the couple is behaving as strange as unusual.

Furthermore, Jodi's suspicion to Todd occurred when Todd did not return home and it was proved in the next data.

The next day, Saturday, she is client-free. After a wakeful night she fell asleep at dawn and stayed in bed till midmorning. Now she's dawdling over breakfast and the paper. It makes no sense that she feels at such loose ends. It's normal for Todd to be gone during the day, even on Saturday, when he generally spends the morning at his building site and then goes for a haircut and takes his car to the carwash. Whereas Sunday is another matter, a day to share a leisurely



brunch and take the dog on a long walk by the water, something she looks forward to all week. But it isn't going to happen tomorrow. Wishing that one of her friends would. (Harrison 57)

Saturday is a free time for Jodi, and then he feels that Todd's busy outing is very busy at being understood by Jodi. But Jodi hopes on Sunday Todd to accompany him for lunch and take their dogs for a walk and the time was very much in the future by Jodi but it was just a dream, that Todd did not come home. In real reasonable a wife is looking forward to happiness by longing for her husband to come home and such disillusionment can trigger a character change where a wife is less concerned by the husband and raises suspicion.

Todd is not going to call her either. There will be no checking in to say that he misses her, no asking after her welfare. She somehow knows this, and with the knowledge comes a feeling of something unstoppable, like birds flying off before a storm. Twenty years ago their love erupted in a blaze of passion and shot like a rocket into orbit. That its momentum has lately been slowing is a shabby fact that she hasn't been able to face. Often it seems to her that the years from then to now have folded in on themselves, collapsed together like accordion pleats, bringing distant memories near. (Harrison 59)

Todd did not call Jodi and did not ask about Jodi's welfare. From the statement of the data can be known the reason for Todd's reduced attention to Jodi suspicion was increasingly increased to him. Then, in the next explanation, Jodi feels that she is as if she will not have a whole spirit without Todd's presence.







starting to remember what he did with his family about his brother about his older brother and his mother. Slowly Jodi began to make herself wiser and better than the events he experienced.

Odd how life can hand you these unexpected gifts. She went to Gerard in the first place as part of her training but can't dispute the fact that during her work with him she peered through the lens of her own eye and discovered important things about herself, for instance her terrific ability to shut out what she didn't want to see, forget what she didn't want to know, put a thing out of her mind and never think about it again. In short, to live life as if certain events had never come to pass. (Harrison 316).

From Quotation above, that explained about Jodi pervades the life that gives her so many gifts inside her. Jodi relies on Gerald in which Gerald is a psychiatrist who helps advice Jodi. When she remembers Gerald there is some memory can be realized by Jodi that realizing she finds things extraordinary in her forgetting everything that happens one of them. From here it appears that Jodi began to be able to calm down and live his life as before by collecting the mental courage of his heart and energy.

Every shrink knows that it's not the event itself but how you respond to it that tells the story. Take ten assorted individuals, expose them all to the same life trial, and they will each suffuse it with exquisite personal detail and meaning. Jodi is the one who never thought about it again. Not once. Not ever. What happened to Jodi in the distant place of her childhood qualifies without a doubt as well and truly forgotten, left behind, defunct, as good as eradicated. Or so she might believe if she hadn't studied psychology. In the end she had to accept that even if you forget that's not the same as if it never happened. The slate is not entirely wiped clean; you can't reclaim the person you were beforehand; your state of innocence is not there to be retrieved.











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