

**PREPARATION FOR PARENTHOOD IN GRAEME
SIMSION'S *THE ROSIE EFFECT***

THESIS



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2020**

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preparation for women and men becoming parents. They need to prepare to experience delivery, labour, and child-rearing. The most significant preparation usually is necessary for a first-time mother and father. The education of parenthood will reveal pleasant feelings and unknown facts about parenthood. Women and men need to understand well how to become a parent so they can resolve the problem better.

Preparation for parenthood in the second child may be different from the first time parenthood. It may also be different in the case of an unplanned and planned pregnancy. The unplanned pregnancy, for example, may involve unexpected or precocious changes that may add stress and change the role statuses on the couple's relationship. It means that preparation for parenthood is essential to prepare the readiness and ability for women and men (Leathers and Kelley, 2000).

The explanation above may indicate that preparation of parenthood is an example of the problem that happens in society. It can be appointed in literary work such as in the novel *The Rosie Effect* by Graeme Simsion, this novel reflects a particular problem that happened in social reality, especially in preparation for parenthood. This novel was published on September 24, 2014, it becomes an internationally best-selling novel, and the rights have been sold in 24 other territories international sales are more than one million copies.

Graeme Simsion is a former business and information technology consultant who decided at the age of fifty to become an author. He lives in Melbourne Australia with his wife Anne, a published author and a professor of

increase the quality of life for both parents, and their children. It means that for preparing the parenthood, men and women need to support each other and need the education of preparation for parenthood itself (Crnic, Gaze & Hoffman, 2005)

Mothering is a lifetime responsibility for women. Being a mother means that they will take care of their children for a lifetime. The transition for parenthood is one of the concepts central to nursing, although mother's transition for parenthood is most often studied rather than the transition to fatherhood (Meleis, 1975). Being a mother contains a feeling of complete love for the infant, satisfaction and pride. Satisfaction will show as pleasure in being parents, and the emotional closeness to their children. Being satisfied and confident also meant that parents need to share the concerns of childcare, and feeling of mutual solidarity and togetherness with their partner. It meant that experiencing and having the opportunity to rest as breastfeeding mother satisfaction and confidence were related to self-esteem and health in the trimester of pregnancy (Blair & Hardesty, 1994).

Pregnancy and childbirth are a special event in women's lives and indeed in the lives of their families. Pregnancy is a time for preparation that is accompanied by anxiety and apprehension for the mother who is pregnant for the first time. Women need to be encouraged, helped, and educated to seek self-care during the antenatal period to have safe motherhood and healthy child and also to prevent complications during pregnancy. A woman who is pregnant for the first time also will feel pleasant and happy toward her childbirth. At the same time,

expressed awareness that life had changed and that there was no turning back. However, a feeling of stress was also caused by hormonal and emotional change. In this situation, a father needs to share the responsibility and support their wife.

Meanwhile, Anderson (1996) adds that a father viewed parenting as a partnership for a mother. They felt acceptable by the mother to take responsibility as a father. Like women, men experienced extensive changes in their life. Trying to understand the new condition, fathers became confused because of a lack of guidelines and role models. Fatherhood also was conveyed as being the economic provider for the family. For some men fatherhood was exercised by supporting the women.

Gender is defined as one's belief about how women and men should act and how each creates their femininity/masculinity (Belsky & Kelley, 1994). When applied to the context of parenthood, it focuses on how parenthood develops a gendered division of labour, largely by reforming wives responsibility, not as husband routines.

Gender role equality in both the workplace and at home has made parenthood problematic. According to Bernhardt and Goldscheider (2006) attitudes towards gender roles that assign the responsibility for home and family to the woman in traditionalism increased the likelihood that men became parents over in twentieth century period, but did not affect this transition for women because there are a several things that men can't help, for example in the breastfeeding situation. That's why in this era women and men should share

The second previous study present by Cees Kan (2014). Titled *The Positive Message of The Rosie Effect*. This research analyses the message present in the novel *The Rosie Effect*. The researcher found that the great value that presents in *The Rosie Effect* novel is its positive message about the possibility of experiencing romantic love despite autism.

The last reviews a relevant study written by Rachel Kitchens BA Hons (2010). Titled *Parenthood: An Analysis of Parenting Discourses Produced in Australia in The Inter-War Years* from Murdoch University. This thesis analyzes parent education literature produced in Australia in The Inter-War Years using Marxism and parenting point of view.

The similarity between the previous study and this research is in the subject matter that is parenthood experience towards the character inside of the literary work or the novel *The Rosie Effect*. The differences between the previous study and this thesis are the researcher focuses on analyses the main character Don's and Rosie's in preparing for parenthood in an unplanned pregnancy that will relatable in the social life.

The third preparation for parenthood in Rosie's and Don's unexpected pregnancy is to prepare their life course journey for the baby and their relationship. In this case, Don and Rosie also prepare the existence of the children after the baby born. For example, they do the material preparation such as buy the baby's stroller, and they also prepare the baby's name. It means that Don and Rosie have the preparation in life course journey during their unplanned pregnancy to prepare how their relationships with the baby after the baby born.

The last concept of preparation for parenthood in Rosie's and Don's unplanned pregnancy is to prepare the gender role. In this case, Don as husband prepares his responsibility to take care of his wife and children in the preparation for parenthood. As a man, Don also tries to solve their problem in the pregnancy and shows his masculinity to protect her wife and children in the pregnancy. Rosie as a mother also indicates the gender role in the preparation for parenthood with interesting the baby rather than Don. Rosie also shows more ready for being a parent rather than Don.

This research also analyzed the effect of preparation for parenthood in Don's and Rosie's relationships. The preparation for parenthood affects Don's and Rosie's relationships because they experience the lifestyle, emotional and hormonal change during the pregnancy. That is why it makes their relationship has a conflict. Because they get unplanned pregnancy Don feels that he is still not ready for being a father and Rosie worries about that. Don is also more interested in his relationship with Rosie rather than his relationship with the baby. The

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