

**REACTION FORMATION CAUSED BY GUILTY FEELINGS  
ON ELLIE CAVANAUGH CHARACTER  
IN *DADDY'S LITTLE GIRL* NOVEL  
BY MARY HIGGINS CLARK**

**TERM PAPER**

Submitted in Part-Fulfillment for Obtaining  
Strata One (S-1) Degree



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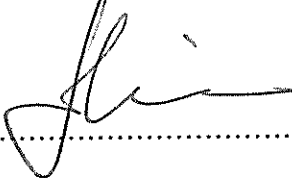
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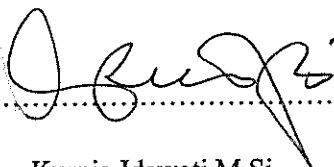
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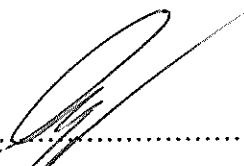
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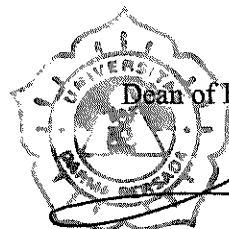
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## PREFACE

Praise the Lord. I express gratitude to Jesus Christ the Almighty for His grace and enormous blessing, I would able to finish the term paper because of His blessing and protection. He always hears my prayers. I almost give up, but He gave me hope. This research entitled *Reaction Formation Caused by Guilty Feelings on Ellie Cavanaugh Character in Daddy's Little Girl* Novel by Mary Higgins Clark.

This term paper is submitted to the Strata One English Department of University of Darma Persada as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for obtaining the Strata One (S1) degree. However, I realize that there are still many shortcomings in this term paper. Therefore, I enthusiastically welcomed the objective criticism and constructive suggestion for the improvement of this paper.

In finishing this term paper, I also want to appreciate to the following people who provided so much help and support, they are:

1. Agustinus Hariyana SS, M.Si as the first advisor, thanks for your valuable guidance, your motivation, encouragement, patient, advice, and suggestion and your energy which are very helpful in finishing this term paper.
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10. Thanks to Hertaty Damera, SS, who gave me the inspiration earlier, so I majored in English Literature. Thanks are willing to listen, give advice, and prayers.
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Finally, I hope that this term paper will be useful not only for myself but also for the readers.

Jakarta, March 2014

Kartika Novalina Risti

## ABSTRACT

Name : Kartika Novalina Risti  
Study Program : S-1 of English Department  
Entitled : Reaction Formation Caused by Guilty Feelings on Ellie  
Cavanaugh Character in *Daddy's Little Girl* Novel by Mary  
Higgins Clark

This term paper discusses the literature of novel by using intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. I use the intrinsic approaches such as characterization, setting and plot. The writer also uses the extrinsic approaches through psychology that is guilty feelings and reaction formation concept by Sigmund Freud. The term paper is a qualitative research that combines psychology literature approaches. The term paper uses *Daddy's Little Girl* novel by *Mary Higgins Clark*, as a primary source, and supported by some of the literature related to theories, concepts, and definitions that relevant as a secondary source.

Keywords: Intrinsic, Extrinsic, Sigmund Freud, Psychology Literature

## **ABSTRAK**

Nama : Kartika Novalina Risti  
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Judul : Reaction Formation Caused by Guilty Feelings on Ellie Cavanaugh Character in *Daddy's Little Girl* Novel by Mary Higgins Clark

*Skripsi ini membahas tentang karya sastra novel dengan menggunakan pendekatan intrinsik dan ekstrinsik. Melalui pendekatan intrinsik saya menggunakan perwatakan, latar dan alur. Melalui pendekatan ekstrinsik, penulis menggunakan pendekatan psikologi sastra, yaitu konsep rasa bersalah dan reaksi formasi oleh Sigmund Freud. Skripsi ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif yang mengkombinasikan pendekatan psikologi sastra. Skripsi menggunakan novel *Daddy's Little Girl* oleh Mary Higgins Clark sebagai sumber primer, dan didukung oleh beberapa literatur yang terkait dengan teori, konsep, dan definisi yang relevan sebagai sumber sekunder.*

Kata kunci : *Intrinsik, Ekstrinsik, Sigmund Freud, Psikologi Sastra*



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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of The Problem

Humans are given ability to think and to feel so that they can stand alone and be responsible to themselves. Every human being will always try to develop personal skills to fulfill their needs. The most important thing that distinguishes humans from other creature is that humans are equipped with their minds, feeling and belief to enhance the quality of life. Humans are created by God with the highest degree among other creations. Human beings are created by God and they have their own problems. In the discussion of the nature of human beings as individuals and social beings, we can see the problems in everyday life. For example, when we got trouble we really need help from other people. It shows that there will appear a few impulses by someone, for example, a sense of guilty. The guilty feelings can cripple a person's heart because he feels tortured with negative feelings. There are many circumstances that can cause guilty feelings. For example, when we do not realize that our guilty feelings have hurt others. The guilty feeling may also appear from depression. If his guilty feeling is not resolved, it can destroy his life. Other way to overcome own guilty feeling is through the reaction formation. For example, we can do act contrary to own feelings from hatefulness which it is covered with a lie that displays of affection.

These guilty feelings and reaction formation can be found in the character of Ellie Cavanaugh in a novel "Daddy's Little Girl". It is a suspense novel written by Mary Higgins Clark.<sup>1</sup> Mary Theresa Eleanor Higgins Clark Conheeny was born on December 24, 1929, known professionally as Mary Higgins Clark, is an American author of suspense novels. The suspense part of Daddy's Little Girl

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<sup>1</sup> ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary\\_Higgins\\_Clark](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Higgins_Clark), Accessed on February 27, 2013)

novel starts from the loss of Andrea, Ellie's sister. And then, Ellie has found her sister's body in a car that is covered by blood. After her sister's case has been investigated, her family begins broken step by step. Her father leaves them. And her mother is died after getting alcoholic.

Most of her 42 books have been bestseller in the United States and various European countries, and all of her novels remained in print as of 2007, with her debut suspense novel, *Where Are The Children*, in its seventy-fifth printing. And other suspense novels by Mary are *Aspire to the Heavens* in 1968, *Where Are The Children?* in 1975, *A Stranger is Watching* in 1977, *The Cradle Will Fall* in 1980, *A Cry in the Night* in 1982, *Stillwatch* in 1984, *Weep No More*, *My Lady* in 1987, *While My Pretty One Sleeps* in 1989, and etcetera. She is a minority owner of the New Jersey Nets. Higgins Clark began writing at an early age. After several years working as a secretary and copy editor, Higgins Clark spent a year as a stewardess for Pan-American Airlines before leaving her job to marry and start a family. She supplemented the family's income by writing short stories. After her husband died in 1964, Higgins Clark worked for many years writing four-minute radio scripts, until her agent convinced her to try writing novels. Her debut novel, a fictionalized account of the life of George Washington, did not sell well, and she decided to leverage her love of mystery/suspense novels. Her suspense novels became very popular, and as of 2007 her books had sold more than 80 million copies in the United States alone. Her daughter, Carol Higgins Clark, and former daughter-in-law Mary Jane Clark are also suspense writers.

Ellie Cavanaugh was only seven years old when her fifteen-year-old sister, Andrea, was murdered near their home in Oldham-on-the-Hudson, a rural village in Westchester County, New York. There were three suspects: Rob Westerfield, nineteen-year-old scion of a wealthy, prominent family whom Andrea had been secretly dating; Paul Stroebel, a sixteen-year-old schoolmate, who had a crush on Andrea; Will Nebels, a local handyman in his forties. It was Ellie who had led her parents to a hide-out in which Andrea's body was found-a secret hideaway in

which she met her friends. And it was Ellie who was blamed by her parents for her sister's death for not telling them about this place the night Andrea was missing. It was also Ellie's testimony that led to the conviction of the man she was firmly convinced was the killer. Steadfastly denying his guilt, he spent next twenty-two years in prison. When he comes up for parole, Ellie now an investigative reporter for Atlanta newspaper protests his release. Nonetheless, the convicted killer is set free and returns in Oldham. Determined to thwart his attempts to whitewash his reputation, Ellie also returns to Oldham intent on creating a website and writing a book that will conclusively prove his guilt. As she delves deeper into her research, however, she uncovers horrifying and heretofore unknown facts that shed new light on her sister's murder. With each discovery, she comes closer to a confrontation with a desperate killer.

So, the main problem that I am going to analyze from this novel is the guilty feelings and the reaction formation from Ellie's character. She was only seven years old when her fifteen year old sister, Andrea, was murdered in the hideout near their home. Twenty three years later, she returns to her hometown and wants to solve the tragedy that killed her sister.

#### **B. Identification of the Problem**

Based on the background of the problem, I identify that the problem of the research is the the guilty feelings and reaction formation of Ellie Cavanaugh to solve the tragedy of her sister's death, because she wants to make sure that only Rob is the guilty person responsible for her sister's tragedy. Therefore, I consider that the assumption of the research is reaction formation caused by guilty feelings on Ellie Cavanaugh character.

#### **C. Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification of the problem, I limit the problem in analyzing how guilty feelings and reaction formation of Ellie Cavanaugh can drive the character to solve the tragedy of her sister's death. The theories and concepts I use are – intrinsic approach characterizations, plots, and settings. From

extrinsic approach is the psychology of literature – guilty feelings and reaction formation.

#### **D. Formulation of the Problem**

The formulation of the problem is starting from perceptions and assumptions. The problem itself does not start from zero but based on perception, and the problem. Since qualitative focus is tentative, an improvement is underway until the investigation is done.<sup>2</sup>

So, based on the limitation of the problem, i.e., *reaction formation caused by guilty feelings on Ellie Cavanaugh character*, formulation of the problem of this research is stated below:

1. Why does Ellie feel guilty?
2. Do Ellie's guilty feelings become a drive for her to the reaction formation?

#### **E. Objectives of the Research**

Based on the formulation of the research, the aim of this research is to prove whether the theme of this novel is *reaction formation caused by guilty feelings on Ellie Cavanaugh character*. To fulfill this purpose, I have to take some steps:

1. To find an answer to factors that cause Ellie's feeling guilty.
2. To find an answer whether Ellie's guilty feelings drive her to the reaction formation.

#### **F. Framework of the Theories**

Based on the aim research, I use the concepts of intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. For the intrinsic, I use literary approaches. And for the extrinsic

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<sup>2</sup> (<http://ymayoman.lecture.ub.ac.id/files/2012/01/pertemuan-4.pdf>, Accessed on February 18, 2014)

approaches, I use the psychological approach.

### 1. Intrinsic Approach

The intrinsic means belonging to or part of the real nature of something/somebody and wanting to know more about it/them.<sup>3</sup> Through this approach, I use the concepts of characterization, setting, and plot, viz:

#### a. Characterization

Characterization in fiction are customarily described by their relationship to plot, by the degree of development they are given by the author, and by whether or not they undergo significant character change.<sup>4</sup> To explain the characters in this novel, I use these methods:

##### 1) Direct Method (Telling)

Direct Method (Telling) relies on exposition and direct commentary by the author. In telling—a method preferred and practiced by many older fiction writers—the guiding hand of the author is very much in evidence. Direct method consists of characterization through the use of names, characterization through appearance, characterization by the author.<sup>5</sup>

##### a) Characterization through the use of names

Names are often used to provide essential clues that aid in characterization. Some characters are given names that suggest their dominant or controlling traits. Names can also contain literary or historical allusions that aid in characterization by means of association.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005), p 816.

<sup>4</sup> James H. Pickering & Jeffrey D. Hooper, *Concise Companion to Literature* (New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1981), p 24.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, p 27.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, p 28.



## b) Characterization through appearance

Although in real life most of us are aware that appearances are often deceiving, in the world of fiction details of appearance (what character wears and how he looks) often provide essential clues to character.<sup>7</sup>

## c) Characterization by the author

In the most customary form of telling the author interrupts the narrative and reveals directly, through a series of editorial comments, the nature and personality of the characters, including the thoughts and feelings that enter and pass through the characters' minds.<sup>8</sup>

## 2) Indirect Method (showing)

Indirect method is the dramatic method, which involves the author's stepping aside, as it were, to allow the characters to reveal themselves directly through and their actions.<sup>9</sup> By contrast, there are essentially two methods of indirect characterization by showing: Characterization through dialogue (what characters say) and Characterization through action (what characters do).<sup>10</sup>

### a) Characterization through dialogue

The task of establishing character through dialogue is not a simple one. Some characters are careful and guarded in what they say: they speak only by indirection, and we must infer from their words what they actually mean.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, p 29.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid*, p 30.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, p 27.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*, p 31.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid*, p 32.

## b) Characterization through action

To establish character on the basis of action, it is necessary to scrutinize the several events of the plot for what they seem to reveal about the characters, about their unconscious attitudes and values.<sup>12</sup>

## b. Setting

Setting in fiction can be defined as character in action at a certain time and place.<sup>13</sup> Setting in fiction is called on to perform a number of desired functions. Setting may serve (1) to provide background for the action; (2) as an antagonist; (3) as a means of creating appropriate atmosphere; (4) as a means of revealing character; (5) as a means of reinforcing theme.<sup>14</sup>

### 1) Setting as background for action

To see whether setting acts as an essential element in the fiction, or whether it exists merely as decorative and functionless background, we need ask ourselves this: Could the work in question be set in another time and another place without doing essential damage? If the answer is yes, then the setting can be said to exist as decorative background whose function is largely irrelevant to the purpose of work as a whole.<sup>15</sup>

### 2) Setting as an antagonist

Setting in the form of nature can function as a kind of casual agent or antagonist, helping to establish plot conflict and determine the outcome of events.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> *Ibid*, p 34.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid*, p 37.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid*, p 38.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid*,

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid*, p 39.

### 3) Setting as a means of creating appropriate atmosphere

Many authors manipulate their settings as a means of arousing the reader's expectation and establishing an appropriate state of mind for events to come.<sup>17</sup>

### 4) Setting as a means of revealing character

Very often the way in which a character perceives the setting, and the way he or she reacts to it, will tell the reader more about the character and his state of mind than it will about the actual physical setting itself.<sup>18</sup>

### 5) Setting as a means of reinforcing theme

Setting can also be used as a means of reinforcing and clarifying the theme of a novel or short story.<sup>19</sup>

## c. Plot

Plot is the deliberately arranged sequence of interrelated events that constitute the basic narrative structure of a novel or a short story.<sup>20</sup> The plot has five structures, viz:

#### 1) Exposition.

The exposition is the beginning section in which the author provides the necessary background information, sets the scene, establishes the situation, and dates the action.<sup>21</sup>

#### 2) Complication/Rising Action.

This section breaks the existing equilibrium and introduces the characters and the underlying or inciting conflict. The conflict is then developed gradually and intensified.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> *Ibid*, p 40.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid*, p 41.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid*, p 42.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid*, p 14.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid*, p 16.

### 3) Crisis/Climax.

The crisis is the moment at which the plot reaches its point of greatest emotional intensity; it is the turning point of the plot, directly precipitating its resolution.<sup>23</sup>

### 4) Falling Action.

Once the crisis, or turning point, has been reached, the tension subsides and the plot moves toward its appointed conclusion.<sup>24</sup>

### 5) Resolution.

The final section of the plot is its resolution; it records the outcome of the conflict and establishes some new equilibrium or stability.<sup>25</sup>

## 2. Extrinsic Approach (The Psychological Approach)

The extrinsic means (formal) not belonging naturally to somebody/something coming from or existing outside somebody/something rather than within them.<sup>26</sup> While the extrinsic approach, I used the self defense mechanism concept by Sigmund Freud. It talks about the phenomena of human problems with others. The phenomena such as feelings, desires, decisions, motivations, personalities, behaviors, and interpersonal relationships. According to Freud, the psychological approach emphasizes unconscious motives from human's behavior that impulse from their childhood. Basically, psychologists are interested in finding out why people act as they do. This study is also to understand a mental process of human behaviour in a literature through their conflicts that happen in their society. According in Sigmund Freud approaches, I use psychological approach such as guilty feelings and reaction formation concept.

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<sup>22</sup> *Ibid*, p 17.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>26</sup> Oxford, *op. cit.*, p 541-542.

#### a. Guilty Feelings

Sex and aggression are two areas in which our impulses most frequently conflict with moral standards and violation of these standards may generate strong feelings of guilt.<sup>27</sup> Neurotic behavior has been described as a vicious cycle. The individual feels inadequate to cope with many everyday problems, so he avoids them by defensive maneuvers; he then feels guilty, unhappy, and even more inadequate because of his failure to deal directly with situations that others handle with apparent ease.<sup>28</sup> And then, Emotions of guilt and of shame are not the same, though they are often closely linked. The essential circumstances evoking guilt involve the perception of one's action in a situation as deviating from the right or moral or ethical action required by the situation.<sup>29</sup>

#### b. Reaction Formation

Reaction formation can prevent the individual from behaving in a way that would most basically create anxiety and frequently can prevent him from behaving antisocial. On the other hand reaction formation is also likely to have dangerous social consequences because of the irrational intensity of the reaction.<sup>30</sup>

### G. Methods of the Research

Based on the theoretical framework, I use the research method with variety of qualitative; type of research literature, the research tendency is interpretative or analyzing by method of data collection from literary texts on *Daddy's Little Girl* novel by Mary Higgins Clark.

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<sup>27</sup> Hilgard, Ernest R. et al., *Introduction to Psychology*, (New York : Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1975), p. 434.

<sup>28</sup> Minderop, Albertine. *Psikologi Sastra*. (Jakarta: Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia, 2010), p 40

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 37

## **H. Benefits of the Research**

The benefits of this research are firstly it could be beneficial for students or researchers who want to explore more deeply about *Daddy's Little Girl* novel by Mary Higgins Clark. Secondly, this research may be useful, to lecturers because it has been done through the new perspective by applying the psychological approach of guilty feelings and reaction formation.

## **I. Systematic Organization of the Research**

Related with the title of this research, the systematic presentation is written as follows:

### **CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION**

This chapter consists of: Background of the Problem, Identification of the Problem, Limitation of the Problem, Formulation of the Problem, Objectives of the Research, Framework of the Theories, Methods of the Research, Benefits of the Research, and Systematic Organization of the Research.

### **CHAPTER II : REACTION FORMATION CAUSED BY GUILTY FEELINGS ON ELLIE CAVANAUGH CHARACTER IN *DADDY'S LITTLE GIRL* NOVEL BY MARY HIGGINS CLARK THROUGH INTRINSIC APPROACHES**

This chapter consists of the analysis of characterization, plot, setting in the novel entitled of *Daddy's Little Girl* by Mary Higgins Clark.

### **CHAPTER III : REACTION FORMATION CAUSED BY GUILTY FEELINGS ON ELLIE CAVANAUGH CHARACTER IN *DADDY'S LITTLE GIRL* NOVEL**

## **BY MARY HIGGINS CLARK THROUGH EXTRINSIC APPROACHES**

This chapter consists of analysis of theme by using the result of intrinsic and extrinsic approaches.

### **CHAPTER IV : CONCLUSION**

This chapter consists of conclusion which shows that the theme of this novel is "Reaction Formation Caused by Guilty Feelings on Ellie Cavanaugh Character." This chapter presents an overview about the research subject which is contained in chapters and implication from research of other variables.