



**THE CONFLICTING VALUES AMONG GENERATIONS IN
D.H.LAWRENCE'S THE VIRGIN AND THE GIPSY**

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Abstract

This research aims at studying the conservative versus the modern characters in Lawrence's The Virgin and The Gipsy. The research is a qualitative and library research. The data gathered are especially taken from the main source which is the novel itself. Besides that, to support the study the writer gets some data from books and internet and the objective theory of literature. The study finds out that in Lawrence's, there are some different views between the young generation and the old generation. The definition and the essence of the study presumed by the writer are based on the character of the two generations in an era. The old generation is a type of person who tends to control and dominate the young. They have an absolute power. On the other hand, the young wants to be free and they have different way of views and appreciate life.

Keywords: *dominate, control, free, power.*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mempelajari karakter konservatif versus modern di Lawrence The The Virgin dan The Gipsy. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian kualitatif dan perpustakaan. Data yang dikumpulkan terutama diambil dari sumber utama yang merupakan novel itu sendiri. Selain itu, untuk menunjang penelitian, penulis mendapatkan beberapa data dari buku dan internet serta teori literatur yang obyektif. Studi ini menemukan bahwa di Lawrence, ada beberapa pandangan berbeda antara generasi muda dan generasi tua. Definisi dan esensi dari studi yang dianggap oleh penulis didasarkan pada karakter dari dua generasi di suatu era. Generasi tua adalah tipe orang yang cenderung mengendalikan dan mendominasi kaum muda. Mereka memiliki kekuatan absolut. Di sisi lain, kaum muda ingin bebas dan mereka memiliki cara pandang yang berbeda dan menghargai kehidupan.

Kata kunci: *dominasi, kontrol, bebas, kekuasaan.*

I. INTRODUCTION

D.H Lawrence was born in Eastwood, Nottinghamshire on September 11, 1885. He was the fourth child of a miner, Arthur John Lawrence and ex-schoolteacher, Lydia. David Herbert Lawrence was one of the most famous writers of the early twentieth century. He spent his time in the coal mining town, Eastwood which he called 'the country of my heart'. The town has become the setting of most of his fictions and has provided the material for a number of his early work. A bad relationship with his violent father and his close relationship with his mother who socially ambitious influenced his later works 'The Virgin and The Gipsy' novel. In 1989, Lawrence won a scholarship to Nottingham School and during these early years he had worked on his first poems, short stories, and a draft of a novel. Some people find that his collected works represent a clear and true reflection of the effect of modernity and industrialization. He was considered one of the greatest imaginative novelists of his era. Moreover, Niger Messenger in his book entitled *How to Study D.H.Lawrence's Novel* says that as a writer, Lawrence is interesting in ordinary experiences but threats them in exotic and highly dramatic way (1992:2). D.H

Lawrence has interestingly presented in the novel the different views of values which exist between the young generation and the old generation in the early twentieth century. Due, they live in a different era; they have different way of life and value and finally bring into a conflict among them. This certainly has created big problems to their mental process and society.

The Virgin and The Gipsy depict the relationships of the family living in a rural rectory in England after World War I. The main protagonist actor in this story is a young virgin called Yvette who just came back home with her sister Lucille after their studies. Yvette's nature and attitude make it difficult for her to identify with her family cleaving on middle-class standard and values. The family's reputation has been shaken because Yvette's mother had left the family for a poor man and never came back. Yvette realizes that she is 'free-born' as her mother was. This could be another disaster for the family, which is governed by rector's lofty mother Granny and rector's sister Cissie who detest Yvette's mother. Yvette tends to individualism and she also attracted by unconventional and alternative attitudes. Moreover, she finds her self physically attracted to a Gipsy camping

near the rectory. Granny and the Rector tend to dominate and control Yvette's daily life. The old man in her family tends to bother her social relationship with other people. Yvette finds out the unfair role to her and Lucille at home done by Granny and the Rector. The old generation in the family act conservatively in handling any condition and their way contradict with Yvette's view of life. Yvette is presented as a girl who enjoys her own life and rule whereas the old generation which is represented by Mr. Saywell and Granny act as stiff and arrogant person who thought their opinions as the right one.

Lawrence skillfully presents the contradiction in his novel through the plot, characterization, and setting time and place that such gaps are normal. Lawrence has recorded the issues in his era in this novel. Recording an era is very important for the next generation to learn from. As a young generation at the time, Lawrence experienced himself such situation. The old generation or the conservative men tend to forbid the youths to express their ideas, gap between social classes, especially the uses Granny and Mr. Saywell as character who tends to build a good relationship with the upper class or 'good moral' class. On the other hand, Yvette

the opposing generation tends to build a relationship with all level of class society. The structure of *The Virgin* and *The Gipsy* is the observation of a person who develops towards individualism, experience sexual lust and is endangered by a possible risk of death.

The research will be focused on the topic, which are the conflicting values exist among the old generation and the young generation or conflict between the conservative versus the modern. The problem would concentrate on: What kinds of conflicting values exist among the old generation and the young generation which are presented in the novel; How D.H Lawrence presents the theme through literary device.

II. THEORETICAL APPROACH

This is a literary research in which the writer basically mostly got the data from books. The writer does not apply mimetic theory in approaching this subject; instead she uses an objective research. Rene Wellek and Austin Warren in their famous, book entitled *Theory of Literature*, to study a subject in a novel and to understand the meaning; a reader first must examine the text itself closely. Therefore, the writer would analyze this novel referring to the theory. The text is made as the main source

to analyze the subject and the source of all data to find out the research question. In addition, Abrams in *Glossary of Literary Terms* said that “the objective orientation which on principle regards the work of art in isolation from all these external points of reference analyzes it as a self-sufficient constituted by criteria intrinsic to its own mode of being” (1976:26). In other words, the intrinsic aspects of the novel such as characterization, plot, theme, would be examined clearly.

III. METHODS

This is a library research, utilizing several documents dealing with the topic. The writer would use some sources supporting her data. She will start it from reading the substantial novel then underline data related to the controversy between old and young generation (Yvette and Granny) on the novel. Some supporting material related to the conflicting values among generations would also be used to synchronize the data. The writer has been reading *the Virgin and the Gipsy* for more than four years, however in order to conduct this research, she reread it and particularly focused on the conflicting values between Yvette and Granny. *The Virgin and the Gipsy*, a novel written by a famous

author, David Herbert Lawrence, was published in 1930.

IV. DISCUSSION

4.1 Righteous versus Loving

As stated by David Daiches, much of twentieth-century fiction is about the relation between public reputation and real moral worth, between gentility and morality (1968:782) and such things can be clearly seen in D.H. Lawrence’s novel discussed, *The Virgin and The Gipsy*. The novelist presents some characters which live their lives for public. In the novel, they perform daily life based on the social norms in the society. The general direction to be public oriented is obvious in the way of perform religious norm. The main concern is how to be seen as a holy person by others. Thus, it leads them to be a hypocritical and righteous person. The righteous and hypocritical person is described by Lawrence as Mr. Saywell.

‘He was afraid his daughter was devolving some of the rank, tainted qualities of she was Cyntia.

You would do the large with somebody else’s money, wouldn’t you he said with a cold. Mongrel sort of sneer, which showed what an utter unbeliever he was at the heart. The inferiority of a heart

which has no core of warm belief in it, no pride in life. He had utterly no belief in her'. (Lawrence 1997:30)

Mr. Saywell is a conservative man who obeys his religion rules strictly. D.H Lawrence intentionally chooses the name to give an image that Mr. Saywell very good in manner related to religion or holy aspect, but he act differently surroundings especially to his ex-wife, Cyntia and Yvette, his daughter. In this part, the readers have been showed the way of thinking of Mr.Saywell to his daughter, Yvette. Mr. Saywell takes a look at Cyntia's moral life in the past as a measure to control Yvette's attitudes at home and in the society. Mr Saywell underestimates Cyntia, and the way she left him. In other words, it is a sign that he does not forgive Cyntia anymore.

'...They seemed so solid, you know, so honest...' You've got a peculiar notion of honest!' he sneered.

'A young sponge going off with a woman older than himself, so that he can live on her money! The woman leaving her home and her children! I don't know where you get idea of honesty. (Lawrence, 1997:70)
'Do I mean like nosing round such people as like Mrs.Fawcett, a Jewess, and ex-Major Eastwood, a man who goes off

with an older woman for the sake of money?' (Lawrence, 1930:70)

Mr. Saywell confirm to Yvette that the Eastwood is not good friends for her, but Yvette success to make sure to her father that they are good person. Yvette is a kind of person who enjoys her social interaction with anybody, but Mr.Saywell shows contrary interaction with other people surrounding. Yvette is a sincere and loving girl. In his view, the Eastwood is not a type of good person to be acquainted to Yvette due to their fault in past. In addition, Mr.Saywell's acrid hatred to Cyntia, his ex wife, is the main standard how to respect other people. He told Yvette that it is a big mistake for her to build a relationship with a bad moral person such as Mr.Eastwood, Mrs.Fawcett, etc. In fact, Mr.Saywell have to teach Yvette to show her love to anyone and never judge other people's mistake because judging one's deed is the right of God, not of human being.

'You follow your own course of action. But remember, you have to choose between clean people, and reverence for your Granny's blameless old age, and people who are unclean in their mind and their bodies.' (Lawrence, 1997:71)

In this part, Mr.Saywell compares the Eastwood's life with Granny, Mr.Saywell's

mother. He believes, his mother is a good, clean, and pure woman. In this case, Yvette should live and act surrounding as her mother daily life. Furthermore, he judges they come from a good moral family and it is not a good deal to get along with 'the unclean people'.

'And today it was the gypsies...she saw the man hammering his copper,...; and the children playing the horse-shelter, and the woman, the gypsy's wife and the strong, elderly woman, coming home with their packs, along the elderly man. For this afternoon, she felt intensively that was home for her...it was part of her nature,...;to be in a certain place, with somebody who meant home to her...The caravan...;everything was natural to her, her home, as if she had been bore there.'
(Lawrence, 1997:70)

The novel shows, Yvette have a good relationship with the Gypsy's family and she usually visits their camp. The Gipsy and family do their daily life freely based on their own desire. They are free and so responsible to their own lives. In this case, they are love and respect each other as well. They care to Yvette and give high respect to her and it is the first time for Yvette to feel at home. In fact, the condition is contradicted related to

the situation with his big family at home. It is full of social conventions and religion rules.

From the description, D.H Lawrence illustrated that the old generation, Mr.Saywell and Granny, tend to be a righteous people who kept well the religion norms, but they rarely show loving action to other people.

4.2 Authoritative versus Free

D.H Lawrence depicts the old generation as the intellectual and respectable people, but they are very conventional in taking care of their children. Parents are likely to have a set of common beliefs. Parents or the old generation usually dictate and control their children's life. In fact, the era of their world is different thus there is a gap of generation between them. In this case, the old man live more on 'public rituals or conventional formulas,' a special characteristic of people in the twentieth-century England.

The Virgin and The Gipsy is written by D.H.Lawrence in the early twentieth – century. The war left many impacts on social, economy, and politic aspects to Great Britain. Furthermore, there is a gap between the young man and the old man toward the absolute decision taken by the old man related to the war.

'There was only the one room for everybody. And there sat the old Lady,

with Aunt Cissie keeping an acrid guard over her' (Lawrence, 1997:15)

The description clearly shows that Granny and Aunt Cissie, the old women are dominating and guarding Yvette's activity at the house. Granny would sit at the sitting room when Yvette's friend came to their house and keep monitoring Yvette's gesture with her friends all the time.

'...for in the family there was a whole tradition of loyalty...especially to the Mater. The Mater, of course, was the pivot of the family. The family was her own extended ego. Naturally, she covered it with her power. And her sons and daughter, being weak and disintegrated, ...'(Lawrence, 1997:8)

The Mater (Granny) is an authoritative woman. She is the central point in the family and all members should obey her rules. Granny shows her great power not only to Yvette, but also to Mr.Saywell and Aunt Cisiie. In fact, it brings them unhappiness and disintegrated.

'She was always out to parties and dances friends came for her in their motorcars, and off she went to the city... in the gorgeous new Palais De Danse she was never free to be quite jolly...'(Lawrence, 1997:12)

Yvette is a representation of a young, enthusiasm and easy girl. She wishes to break the absolute power of Granny and Mr.Saywell at the house. In fact, she usually get out to parties and dances with friends. She feels free to express her own happiness outside and enjoy it.

'and were quite the usual thing, tall young creatures with fresh, sensitive faces and bobbed hair and young manly, deuce-take it manners.' (Lawrence, 1997:10)

Yvette's physical description is different from the common girls in her society. She is not really feminine, but tomboy. In addition, she has a 'bobbed hair' and 'young manly'. Thus, it indicates that the way she dressed up and performs her self in the society is different from the standard of social mannerism. She wants to be free in deciding her own style.

5. Class-discriminating versus Respectful

Basically, the Saywell's is not come from the upper class of society and they are categorized as middle class. However, they have a good relationship with the rich people, the upper class in the city. Therefore, they usually regard themselves as member of the high class society. In other way, Yvette usually

has a relationship with anybody from different background of social class in the society. Granny and Mr. Saywell have good position in the society due to their existence and good manner at the church and the society.

'Granny gave her hand to the uncomfortable young man, and gazed silently at him, "You are not from our parish?" she asked him.' (Lawrence, 1997:16)

Granny intended to influence Yvette to select friends to befriend with. When Yvette's friends came to the house, they have to meet Granny first and she would start to interrogate them clearly. Granny knows anyone in the society, especially from the upper class. Thus, she could identify anyone who does not come from their society.

'Aren't there enough decent people in the world for you to know? Anyone would think you were a stray dog, having to run in decent couples, because the decent ones wouldn't have you.' (Lawrence, 1997:69)

Mr. Saywell reminds Yvette not to get along with the Eastwood. He thought that they are not a good person to befriend due to their bad attitude in the past. Yvette confidently describes to her father about her relationship with the Eastwood, but Mr. Saywell insists

that the Eastwood do not have any good place in their family as well as in the society. In this case, Mr. Saywell clearly discriminate the Eastwood.

'She was rather thrilled. She liked talking to the working men. They had often such fine, hard heads. But of course they were in another world.' (Lawrence, 1997:12)

Yvette likes to build a relationship with anybody, from any social class. She has a great respect to other than Granny and Mr. Saywell. In fact, she has a little talked with the 'working men' which are classified as lower class.

'Yvette insisted on stopping and getting out to talk to them, The girls in their Russian boots, tramped through the damp grass...' (Lawrence, 1997:20)

In this part, Lawrence shows Yvette's great attitude and respect to the Russian girls on her way to the city. She gets off from the car and talked with the girl even though she doesn't know them well. She enjoys having a little talk with them.

IV. CONCLUSION

The Virgin and The Gipsy is an interesting story which portrays the different views between the old people, Granny and Mr. Saywell and the young people, Yvette, in the early twentieth century. Lawrence successfully described the situation of the

society in the era. In fact, there are many social gaps between the old people and the young people.

The old people, Granny and Mr. Saywell tend to be a righteous, authoritative person and standardize social class in the society. However, the young people, Yvette, tend to be a loving and free girl, and respectful to anybody from different social class.

Today, the young people have a great chance to explore and exist in the society. However, there are still some conservative parents in particular place who very strict to their children. The real condition in the past, the conflicting values among generations still happen.

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