

**DIVORCE REFLECTED IN HEATHER TULLIS NOVEL SECOND  
CHANCES: LOVE IN JUNIPER RIDGE (2016): A BEHAVIORIST  
PERSPECTIVE**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
For Getting Bachelor Degree of Education  
In English Department**

**by:**

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## TESTIMONY

I am the researcher, signed the statement bellow:

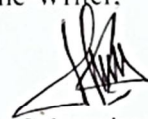
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NOVEL *SECOND CHANCES: LOVE IN JUNIPER RIDGE*  
(2016): A BEHAVIORIST PERSPECTIVE

Herewith, I testify that this research I submitted is an original work by me. There is no plagiarism of the previous literary work which has been raised to obtain bachelor degrees of university, nor there are opinions or masterpieces which have been written or published by others, except which are cited written in the script and mentioned in references.

If it is a result of plagiarism in the future, I am fully responsible for that.

Surakarta. April 2018

The Writer.



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**Abstrak**

Peneitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis tingkah laku tokoh utama, Karissa, sebelum dan sesudah perceraian dalam novel *Second Chances: Love in Juniper Ridge* karya Heather Tullis. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan behaviorism. Penelitian ini termasuk penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Sumber utama dalam penelitian ini adalah novel *Second Chances: Love in Juniper Ridge* karya Heather Tullis. Sumber kedua penelitian adalah penelitian-penelitian sebelumnya yang berkaitan dengan issue yang diangkat oleh peneliti, serta artikel, jurnal dan sumber yang lain yang berkaitan dengan penelitian ini. Teknik pengumpulan data dalam penelitian ini adalah studi perpustakaan dan tehnik analisa data adalah menganalisis dokumen dan konten yang sesuai dengan menggunakan teori behaviorisme dari B.F Skinner. Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti meanarik beberapa kesimpulan yaitu: 1) Perilaku Karisa berubah setelah perceraianya. Karissa menjadi pribadi yang lebih positif dari sebelumnya. 2) Terdapat perilaku *Respondent* dan *Operant conditioning* dalam diri Karissa. 3) Perubahan perilaku Karissa dipengaruhi oleh lingkungan sekitar. Novel ini menunjukkan bahwa perilaku seseorang bisa berubah karena perceraian dan dipengaruhi oleh lingkungan sekitar.

Kata Kunci: Perceraian, *Respondent* dan *Operant Conditioning*, Lingkungan.

**Abstract**

This research has aim to analyze main character's behavior, Karissa, before and after divorce in *Second Chances: Love in Juniper Ridge* novel by Heather Tullis. This research uses behaviorism approach. It is descriptive qualitative research. The primary data of this novel is the novel itself, *Second Chances: Love in Juniper Ridge* by Heather Tullis. The secondary data are the previous studies that related to the issue, articles, journals, and the others sources that related to this research. Technique of collecting data is library research and technic of analyzing data is analyzing document and content that is related to behaviorism theory by B.F Skinner. In this research, the researcher draws some conclusions, namely: 1) Karissa's behavior changed after her divorce. Karissa becomes more positive than before. 2) There are Respondent and Operant conditioning in Karissa's behavior. 3) The change behavior of Karissa is influenced by the environment around her.

This novel shows that human behavior can change because of divorce and influenced by the environment.

Keyword: Divorce, Respondent and Operant Conditioning, Environment.

## 1. Introduction

Divorce is something common nowadays. It not only happens for young couple but also the old couple. They are easily to break up without considering the effects of divorce. Divorce can happen when there is no agreement between them. They start to argue and fight a lot.

According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary “divorce is the ending of marriage by a legal process”. It means that a separation of a couple through law and attorney. When a couple does not want to continue their marriage, they can ask for government to be separated. To make it possible, a couple should hire an attorney.

*Second Chances* novel by Heather Tulis tells about married woman, Karissa, who thinks that she can manage her life well, especially her marriage. She marries with a guy named Dennis. She has a son named Paul. At first her marriage is under her control but lately she can not handle it anymore. She is cheated by her husband, Dennis, with a blonde girl named Sheryl. At the same time, Karissa’s mother has *Lupus*. It must her to follow some medical tests. It ruins Karissa’s life so much. Karissa must be tougher than yesterday. She has to struggle with this all condition. Slowly, Karissa can move her life on because of her brother’s friend, Marshal Willmore. He had a crush on her since they were in school. Now Karissa comes back. It is Marsh’s turn to win Karissa heart, but it never be easy. Karissa still closes her heart for any guy. She has traumatic and depressed because of her failure of marriage. Marsh is never give up. He always tries to make Karissa trusted about his feeling. Then Karissa has strange feeling about Marsh that is love. Her trust is examined when Marsh get in jail because of fake accusation. She should trust him but her thought is not. Everything is happy at last.

The researcher has some reasons in choosing this novel. First, this novel is interesting. Second is about character and characterization of *Second Chances* Novel. The author delineates the characters in well characterizations. Third is this

novel has feminist side also. The author depicts the main character, Karissa as an independent woman

By the explanation above, researcher is interested to analyze the novel. Researcher wants to know how divorce can influence Karissa's behavior and how she reacts to this. So the researcher will analyze the novel entitled "*Divorce Reflected in Heather Tullis Novel Second Chances: Love in Juniper Ridge Part I (2016): A behaviorist Perspective*"

## **2. Research Methodology**

The research method is divided into five parts, namely type of study, type of data and data source, method and technique of collecting data, data validity and technique of analyzing data. The type of study is descriptive qualitative. The primary source comes from the novel itself and second sources are articles, journals, dictionary, and the others sources that related to the issue. This research will apply library research and comprehension technique as the method. Data validity here uses triangulation method. Technique of data analysis is document analysis. Researcher uses content analysis by using behaviorist perspective in analyzing the data.

## **3. Discussion and Findings**

This chapter deals with the finding that the researcher gathers and the discussion. It will discuss about divorce in behaviorism, Karissa behavior before and after divorcing, Karissa influencing environment.

### **3.1 Finding**

#### **3.1.1 Divorce in Behaviorism**

##### **a. Respondent Conditioning**

Respondent behavior is a response made by (*elicit*) organism for respond stimulus is specifically related to that response. It reflects in *Second Changes* Novel. When Karissa feels her heart is broken, her tears fall. Here is an example of Respondent conditioning in Karissa's behaviors:

*"Feeling her chest tighten, she lifted her face to meet his gaze, tears brimming in her eyes...."*

The underlined words above are the example of respondent behavior. Those are the response which is followed by the stimuli in the words before. In the *example* above, there is a stimulus (feeling her chest tighten). Then it is followed by the response (she lifted her face).

b. Operant Conditioning

Operant behavior is a response that produced by (*emitted*) organism without there is no existence of specific stimulus which is pressuring that response. Bellow is an example of Operant conditioning:

*“Feeling her chest tighten, she lifted her face to meet his gaze, tears brimming in her eyes. She’d always cried when she was overwhelmed and down on herself.*

After body is stimulated, there is consequence that it gets. It is bad and sad feeling or sense. It is impossible that sad and bad feeling appear without any cause that come first, stimulus. Then, divorce is the stimulus and sad feeling is the reaction. Then, it will produce action that is crying

3.1.2 Karissa’s Behavior Before and After The Divorce

1. Before the divorce

a. She is sweet and grateful

Karissa is sweet and grateful before divorcing. She has what she wants. She gets a loving husband, energetic son, warm family and a proper job. Here is the dialogue of that Karissa’s behavior:

*“She reminded herself to be sweet and grateful that her father and brother were taking the day to help her—doing this alone would have been impossible”*

It can be implied that she has to pretend sweet and grateful as usual. She has to pretend that there is nothing happen on her. If she still be sweet and grateful she has not to remind herself to do so. Therefore, Karissa’s life before is full of joy and grateful.



b. Feisty

Karissa seems like another woman. She is feisty and full of passion. She has strong willingness, but it fades away after divorce. Bellow is the example of Karissa's feisty behavior:

*"Yeah, I'm getting that feeling. What did that jerk do to her? How long has she been like this? It's like she's a totally different person."*

It indicates that Karissa is a cheerful and feisty woman before divorcing. She is totally different after her husband breaking her heart into pieces. Her life ruins. It told that she cheerful and has high sense of confidence before. After she is cheated by her husband, Dennis, she becomes another one

2. After the divorce

a. She is unhappy

As long as she drove to her hometown, she always think how pity she is. She has done anything for Dennis, but he cheated behind her. There is no explanation from him. He chooses to divorce instead. Karissa thinks it is her fault because she didn't know what does actually Dennis want. She always blames herself.

Her face is not only reflected her sadness. There is anger, disappointment, and exhausted on her face. She can not believe her husband did that. If he can not stand for her, at least he stands for his only son, Paul.

b. Depressed

1) Drooping

Karisa becomes too emotional after knowing that she is cheated by her husband. Everything that reminds her about it, she will spontaneously feel sad and drooping. She though many things, many difficulties that will appear after divorce. She actually does not know what her feeling, she is broken but

she must look tough for her only son. She just knows that her life is ruin.

2) Crying often

It can not be denied that woman is full of feeling human. Everything that makes her feel touched, woman will easily express it. It also applies for Karissa. Karisaa feels betrayed by her husband. Whenever she thinks about her divorce, she will always cry. It is not because she will be single parents but what she does till now is not worthy enough.

3) Feeling bad

Being a single parent makes her feel so bad. She thinks what will her parent thinks about her. She is failed to make her husband stay beside her. She is failed to hide her disenchantment. At least she is not failed as a mother. She can do anything for her only son, Paul.

c. Hard-worker

Karissa has a new job, as a breadwinner. The crucial thing that comes after divorce is about financial. Karissa becomes a hard worker is not only for fulfilling her daily needs but also for distracting her disenchantment. She goes crazy of her job as a dispatcher.

d. Overprotective

Karissa seems afraid to lose her son. Paul is the only person that she can keep. She may lose everything, husband and relation but not for her son. She will protect Paul as hard as she can. She becomes overprotective since then

e. Stubborn or Independent

As soon as Karissa realizes she must go her life on, she changes into different person. She must be tough. Karissa always think that she can handle everything. She does not want any people take a pity on her. She does everything by herself.

f. Thinker

Karissa becomes so thoughtful. She thinks many things in her mind. Karissa seems depressed. She always think her failure to be a wife. She thinks why bad things come in the same time. She thinks about her mom health. Her mother got Lupus when Karissa got the divorce. She feels like her life ruin. She move to her hometown to refresh her mind. Yet she has to face the reality that everything is not fine.

g. Hardly to trust or Doubtful

Due to Karissa was cheated by Dennis, she becomes so doubtful. There is traumatic to make relationship with guy. Karisa only wants to live with her son, Paul. She does not want to be hurt again. She becomes anticipatory woman.

There is an example of Karissa behavior that belongs to this one of types of conditioning behavior. From the conversation between Marsh and hank that researcher cited in the findings above can be concluded that there is a respondent behavior. Karisa may fell so broken due to her husband. Karisa feels so hurt then her face automatically shows that. It is characterized by her melancholy face.

Then, another type of conditioning behavior is operant behavior. As stated by researcher above, operant behavior is an act that comes from human and gives consequence. This explanation will be illustrated by the figure bellow:



Figure. 1

It gives us the description that feeling sad or bad is the stimulus (S) of being emotional. Being emotional is the response (R). Then Crying is reaction ( $S^{r+}$ ) or reinforcement. Skinner stated that studying is a

behavior, so does crying. Karissa depression after divorcing is clearly described in the novel. One of her behaviors that show that is she cries often. She cries for everything happened on her recently. This Karissa's behavior is suitable with Skinner's theory.

### 3.1.3 Karissa's influencing Environment

Karissa's behavior depends on the environment around her. She must be a hard worker because the environment pushes her to be like that. Social environment has strong relation between one and another. Every human needs another man. In Karissa's case she needs her family to go her life on. Her behavior is change because there is environment which influences it too.

Karissa becomes "another" one because of situation and condition. Affandi (2011) stated that realistic environment is "marked by concrete, physical, and explicit duties that give challenge for the doer". It needs faster move and physical endurance. It belongs to Karissa. Karissa is a dispatcher of the town. The job is usually for a man but Karissa can handle that. She often more interacts with man than woman. She is a feisty woman before divorcing.

## 3.2 Discussion

Through behaviorist's perspective, researcher tries to elaborate how divorce is seen from the behaviorism side. Behaviorist, Skinner, mentioned that there are two kinds of conditioning that happened into human. Those are Respondent and Operant conditioning. From the findings above we can see that the strong influence of divorce can change human behavior. It can be seen by the stimulus that Karissa get and response that Karissa gives while she is facing the process of divorce. Stimulus here takes first participation. Then the response shows the result. Divorce here is a cause of Karissa being depressed. Then depression is the stimulus. Last, Karissa's change behavior is the response.

Karissa comes from a farm family in Juniper ridge. Her environment belongs to social environment which needs the other humans help. Karissa is surrounded with the love from her family. Karissa's changed behavior is also influenced by

realistic environment. It needs faster move and physical endurance. It belongs to Karissa. Karissa is a dispatcher of the town. The job is usually for a man but Karissa can handle that.

#### **4. Conclusion**

In the *Second Chances* novel by Heather Tullis, the main character, Karissa, has changed her behavior. Karissa behavior is change after the divorce. Karissa was a feisty and cheerful woman. She always has possibility on her. She decides to divorce because her husband, Dennis, was cheating behind her. It makes Karissa's behavior changes. After analyzing *Second Chances* novel by Heather Tullis, researcher draws some conclusions.

First, divorce can give good and bad impact for the doer. It is usually found that the bad impact is the strongest one. The impacts of divorce can be seen through behaviorism. The change of Karissa's behavior is influenced by the environment. It can be analyzed by using behaviorist perspective in Karissa's changed behavior. In Karissa's case, the sad and bad feeling due to divorce is the stimulus. Then Karissa's change behavior is the response.

Second, in her divorcing process, Karissa changed her behavior. It is told that Karissa was cheerful, feisty, and easy going woman. Then, divorce changes her behavior. In Skinner theory, the change of behavior can appear because there is a stimulus and environment that influences it. In Karissa case, her behavior is change after divorcing and moved to her hometown.. Karissa became hard-worker (in case she wants to distract her mind from divorce and Dennis definitely), thinker, cry often, and doubtful. It is done by her because she doesn't want to feel prolonged disappointment. Yet Karissa is able to go her life on because of her family unconditional love and support.

Third, the environment that influence Karissa behavior belongs to social and realistic environment. In social environment, human can not life without the others help. So does Karissa, she can survive because of her family love and support. In realistic environment, human is interested with a job that needs strong body. Karissa is a dispatcher of the town. The job is usually for a man but Karissa can handle that.

Skinner's theory of behavior can be applied in *Second Chances* Novel by Heather Tullis. It is because Karissa's character is well described by the dialogue and narration. The environment around Karissa is also well depicted. Therefore, between theory and data has the correlation.

Researcher suggests that the next researcher can analyze this novel by using society issue or personality of main character. This research may also be used as a reference in learning literature especially about novel. Not only about the research, this novel can also be used as a source or material to be analyzed by the student of English department.

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