



**GRACE REED'S SUPERIORITY OVER SAMANTHA
REED IN HUNTLEY FITZPATRICK'S *MY LIFE*
*NEXT DOOR***

A FINAL PROJECT

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement
For Strata I Degree in Literature
In English Department, Faculty of Humanities
Diponegoro University

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SEMARANG
2016
PRONOUNCEMENT

I state truthfully that this project was compiled by me without taking the results from other researcher's work in any university, in S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree and in diploma. In addition, I ascertain that I did not take the material from other publications or someone's work except from the references I mentioned in bibliography.

Semarang, 26 September 2016

Midna Nur Marsyadiah

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“Excellent is the reward of the workers who have been patient and upon their Lord they rely.”

— **Al-Ankabut (The Spider: 58-59)**

“Nothing ever comes to one, that is worth having, except as a result of hard work.”

— **Booker T. Washington**

*This final project is dedicated to my beloved family
and everyone who helped me finished my final project.*

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Praise to Allah SWT, who has given His mercy, blessing, strength and true spirit so this project entitled “Grace Reed’s Superiority upon Samantha’s Reed in Huntley Fitzpatrick’s *My Life Next Door*” came to a completion. In this occasion, I would like to thank all those people who helped me completed this final project.

My deepest gratitude and appreciation are extended to my advisor, Hadiyanto, S.S., M.Hum., who has given his continuous guidance, helpful correction, moral support, advice and suggestion, without which it is doubtful that this final project could come into completion.

My deepest thanks also goes to the following persons:

1. Dr. Redyanto Noor, M.Hum., the dean of Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University.
2. Dr. Agus Subyanto, M.A., the head of English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University.
3. All lectures of English Department whose valuable suggestions and assistance have enabled me to finish my work.
4. My beloved parents, Agus Kusnadi and Juariah, thank for your unconditional support, prayers and advices.
5. All my friends in English Department batch 2012, especially B class and class of Literature. Thank you for all the friendship, the teamwork and the moments.

Believe it or not, you are my biggest motivation in finishing my paper. I am really proud and grateful to be one of you.

6. My KKN mates or Pakopen Ceria squad. I was not aware at all that the time thirty five days with you all has given me a change to be a better person.
7. All those people whom I have met during my university time and become my friends whose name I cannot mention one by one. Thank you for sharing a lot of happiness with me and helping me whenever I need you.

I would like to express that I am fully aware that my work is far from being perfect, however, I will be glad to receive any constructive criticism and recommendation to make this work better.

Finally, I expect that this thesis will be useful to the readers who wish to learn something about superiority and inferiority complex in the novel.

Semarang, 26 September 2016

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ABSTRACT

This extended essay tries to analyze superiority complex from the character of Grace Reed in Huntley Fitzpatrick's novel *My Life Next Door*. In writing this paper, the writer uses library research that is done by reading books, articles, or any written visual documents related to the topics. While in answering questions, the writer tries to analyze intrinsic aspect and extrinsic aspect with Alfred Adler's individual psychology theory about superiority and inferiority complex. The purpose of this study is to show the kinds of Grace Reed's superiority over Samantha Reed, the causes on why superiority is exist in Grace Reed's character and to the effects of Grace's Reed superiority towards Samantha Reed. The result show that Grace Reed's superiority can be seen from how Grace Reed behave in everyday life, the factors from the circumstances and the conflicts that happened to the character.

Keyword: *Superiority, Grace Reed, Samantha Reed, and Politics.*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Some people expect to be more dominant than others. An individual with dominant personality may enjoy controlling and bossing others, and may get angry if he or she is demanded to obey others. The superior people are usually or even always more dominant over the inferior people. According to Schultz, throughout our lives, we are driven by the need to overcome this sense of inferiority and to strive for increasingly higher levels of development (2009: 132). It means that our desire for superiority is affected by our inferiority feeling.

In this extended essay, the writer chooses superiority complex of the mother over her daughter based on the novel *My Life Next Door* by Huntley Fitzpatrick. In writing this paper, the writer refers to Alfred Adler's on individual psychology theory concerning superiority and inferiority complex. Since superiority and inferiority complex occur and are experienced by all normal human beings, this kind of complex is worth studying. The writer tries to briefly discuss superiority and inferiority complex in the novel *My Life Next Door* to show the readers that superiority and inferiority complex may cause unexpected problems to certain people.

In the novel *My Life Next Door*, parents' superiority is an interesting case to be discussed as this novel talks about a woman who wants to have a superiority attitude caused by inferiority feeling she has experienced. The writer wants to explain that the reason of Grace Reed's superiority upon her daughter, Samantha Reed, is not

only because Grace is a parent and is stronger than Samantha, but there are other reasons to influence Grace's superiority.

1.2 Study Problems

1. What kind of attitude which show that Grace Reed is superior?
2. What is the factor of Grace Reed's superiority?
3. What is the effect of Grace Reed's superiority towards Samantha Reed?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1. To analyze what kinds of attitudes showing that Grace Reed is superior.
2. To explain the factor of Grace Reed's superiority.
3. To explain the effect of Grace Reed's superiority towards Samantha Reed.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Intrinsic Element

According to Wallek and Warren intrinsic elements are the element that builds the literary work itself. Intrinsic elements of a novel element directly participate and build the story (1962:75). In this extended essay, the writer will use character and characterization as the intrinsic element of the novel.

Character is the characteristics of a person in a story. In order for a story to seem real to the reader, its characters must seem real. According to Holman, the creation of images of these imaginary persons so credible that they exist for the reader as real

within limits of the fiction is called characterization (1960: 79). A character is divided into static character and dynamic character.

According to Holman, static character is one who changes little if at all in the progress of the narrative (1960: 81). Most novels have dynamic character as protagonist. For example, in the novel *Harry Potter* by J.K Rowling, the character of Harry Potter is a protagonist with a dynamic character because in the beginning of the series, a little Harry Potter does not know that he is a wizard. As the time goes, he becomes a great wizard who has a courage to face his enemy, Voldemort. On the other hand, a dynamic character is one who is modified by the actions through which he passes, and one of the objectives of the work in which he appears is to reveal the consequences of these actions upon him (Holman, 1960; 81). The example of static character is the character of Voldemort in the J.K Rowling's novel *Harry Potter* as Voldemort is the antagonist who does not experience major internal changes. He is the same from the beginning of the story to the end of the story.

2.2 Extrinsic Elements

According to Wallek and Warren, extrinsic elements are the elements that are beyond the Martial Arts, but indirectly affect the building or system of the organism's Martial Arts (1962: 75). In this extended essay, the writer uses superiority and inferiority complex theory as well as striving for superiority theory by Alfred Adler as the extrinsic elements of the novel.

2.2.1 Superiority and Inferiority Complex

Superiority and Inferiority complex is a psychological theory stated by Alfred Adler. Inferiority complex is an acute feeling of inferiority, often resulting in shyness or exaggerated aggressiveness. On the other hand, superiority complex is an exaggerated opinion of one's abilities and accomplishment. Such a person may feel inwardly self-satisfied and superior and show no need to demonstrate his or her superiority with accomplishment or the person may feel such a need and work to become successful (Adler, 1930: 395). In both cases, persons with a superiority complex are given to boasting, vanity, self-centeredness, and a tendency to denigrate others.

Behind everyone who behaves as if he/she were superior to others, we can suspect a feeling of inferiority which calls for very special efforts of concealment. It is as if a man/woman feared that they were too small and walked on their toes to make themselves taller (Adler, 1933: 96).

Adler proposes that inferiority feelings are the source of all humans striving.

Individual growth results from compensation, from human attempts to overcome their real or imagined inferiorities. Throughout lives, humans are driven by the need to overcome this sense of inferiority and to strive for increasingly higher levels of development. This innate goal, the drive toward wholeness or completion, is oriented toward the future. Whereas Freud proposed that human behavior is determined by the past that is, by the instincts and by our childhood experiences, Adler sees human motivation in terms of expectations for the future.

2.2.2 Striving for Superiority

Inferiority feelings are the source of motivation and striving because humans are motivated simply to get rid of inferiority feelings and work for something more. Adler describes his notion of striving for superiority as the fundamental fact of life

(Adler, 1930: 395). Superiority is the ultimate goal toward which humans strive. Adler does not mean that superiority is the usual sense of the word, nor does the concept relate to the superiority complex. Human motivation is in terms of expectation for the future and instincts and primal involved are insufficient as explanatory principles. Only the ultimate goal or superiority or perfection could explain personality and behavior. The ultimate goal for each of human is superiority or perfection, but they try to attain that goal through many different behavior patterns. Each human expresses the striving differently. Human ultimate goal is superiority or perfection which makes the whole personality complete. Four basic styles of life are the dominant type or ruling attitude in which a person behaves without regard for others, the getting type in which a person expects to receive satisfaction from other people and becomes dependent on them, the avoiding type in which a person makes no attempt to face life's problem or avoids any possibility of failure by avoiding difficulties, and the social useful type in which a person cooperates with others and acts in accordance with their needs (Adler, 1930: 395-405).

3. RESEARCH METHOD

3.1 Research Approach

In relation to background of the study, the writer uses psychological approach in writing this essay. According to Ghiselin (1954: 271), literary psychology approach is as quoted below:

It is obvious enough that psychology, being the study of psychic processes, can be brought to bear upon the study of literature, for the human psyche is the womb of all the sciences and arts. We may expect psychological research, on the one hand, to explain the formation of art, and the other to reveal the factors that make a person artistically creative (1954: 271).

This study will use theory of individual psychology by Alfred Adler. Adler called his approach individual psychology because it focuses on the uniqueness of each person (Schultz, 2009: 130). The analysis will focus on superiority and inferiority complex.

3.2 Method of data Collection

In analyzing superiority and inferiority complex in the novel *My Life Next Door* the writer uses library research. Wellek and Warren stated as follows:

Since the majority of students can find their sources material in libraries, a knowledge of the most important libraries, and familiarity with their catalogues as well as other reference books, is undoubtedly, in many ways, an important equipment of almost every student in literature (Wellek and Warren, 1962: 58)

The writer applies library research by reading the text and finding another information from other sources, such as book and internet. By using this method, the writer can obtain information that will serve to provide information about the object discussed.

4. ANALYSIS OF GRACE REED'S SUPERIORITY UPON SAMANTHA REED IN *MY LIFE NEXT DOOR*

4.1 Grace Reed's Superiorities Over Samantha Reed

4.1.1 Grace Reed's Superiority in Samantha's Life

Grace Reed is a state senator campaigning for the second term and has a youthful appearance, high fashion, ambition in perfect house. She wants her daughters to fit her political image perfectly. Grace Reed always belittles her new neighbor, the Garretts, and forbids her daughters to get in touch with them "...the messy family who lowers real estate values, here they are right next door..." (Fitzpatrick, 2012:4). In this case, Grace Reed has a superiority complex in which she has a tendency to denigrate others.

In the novel, Grace Reed represents a mother who has an ambition of perfect life causing her daughter, Samantha Reed, to follow what she wants in her life. Grace Reed's superiority upon Samantha Reed can be seen in their daily life. Since she comes into politics, Grace Reed is rarely around Samantha. However, when she is around her, she becomes involved in Samantha's life, such as checking to see if Samantha's hair is properly conditioned and making sure that Samantha is in bed by a certain time each night as quoted below:

"Mom, I'm only ten minutes late".

"That's not the point." Her voice rises. "The point is that you don't get to do it! I expect better from you. This summer especially. You know I'm under a lot of pressure. This is not the time for your adolescent drama." (Fitzpatrick, 2012:85).

The dialogue above illustrates that before her campaign, Grace Reed keeps trying to make Samantha a girl with good manner. Grace Reed also states that she has to concentrate on her campaign and has no enough time to think about Samantha's bad behavior.

Grace does not like if her daughters are all free in the summer. Grace sets her daughters, Samantha and Tracy, to have a job during the summer. As a result, Samantha has two part-time summer jobs. Firstly, she becomes a lifeguard at the country club and secondly, she has a job at a local restaurant as quoted below:

“So, Samantha. I want to be sure you’re all set for the summer. Your Breakfast Ahoy job is how many mornings a week?”

“Three, Mom.”

“Then there are two days of lifeguarding.” (Fitzpatrick, 2012: 20)

4.1.2 Grace Reed’s Superiority in Politic

Since Grace Reed starts political campaign, she always demands Samantha to come to political events with her and ask Samantha to say that she is really proud of Grace. In this case, it is like Grace who involves Samantha in her campaign for her own benefit. Samantha actually does not enjoy it, but she must do it because her mother asks her. Lately, Samantha gets tired of hearing what her mother said in her campaign. She feels like that it is not her mom, as quoted below:

I stand next to her at Moose Hall for approximately eight thousand years, repeating “Yes, I’m so proud of my mother. Please vote her,” while she shakes hand after hand after hand.

When she first got elected, this was kind of fun and exciting. All those people I’d never met who seemed to know me, happy to meet us. Now it just seems surreal. I listen hard to Mom’s speech, trying to analyze how things have changed. She’s much more assured, with all these new hand gestures-chopping the air, arms outspread in appeal, hands crossed over her heart...but it’s more than that. Last time, it was mostly local issues Mom talked about, and mildly. But now she’s talking on federal spending and the size of government, and the unfair taxation of the wealthy, who create all the job (Fitzpatrick; 2012:142).

Ever since Grace Reed meets Clay Tucker, her boyfriend who is ten years younger than her, Grace always puts Clay first in everything. As it is written earlier,

Grace Reed is a perfectionist woman and one night she has found out that her vacuum cleaner is broken when she is about having a dinner with Clay. Even though the room is already clean, Grace is mad because she wants her room to be perfectly clean.

Grace then blames Samantha and yells at her, as quoted below:

“I didn’t use it, Mom.”

Suddenly she’s yelling. “Then what is wrong with this thing. Of all the times for it to break! Clay’s coming for dinner with some potential campaign donors and the room’s only half done.” She slams the vacuum cleaner down (Fitzpatrick, 2012: 67).

Grace Reed is really obsessed with her political career and Clay. She never really cares about Samantha anymore. Besides, Grace always asks Samantha to do something to please Clay and everything which will give benefit to her election, as quoted below:

As I walk home, I check my cell messages, finding one from Mom, still sounding peeved, telling me to clean the house: “Make it immaculate,” she emphasizes. And then “Make yourself scarce, as Clay’s bringing those donors over.” (Fitzpatrick, 2012: 71).

Grace Reed also prevents Samantha to do what she wants, she always demands her to come home early especially if Clay and her political partners are at home as quoted below:

“Be that as it may. This is the sort of thing I just can’t have going on during campaign. I need to focus. I can’t have you distracting me with these antics. I’m keeping an eye on you, Samantha. You’ve always be my good girl. Just...act like it, okay?” (Fitzpatrick, 2012:87).

Through the dialogue above, it can be seen that Grace Reed tells Samantha to behave well for the sake of her election campaign benefits. Grace does not want Samantha’s juvenile delinquency to disturb her focus on the election

4.1.3 Grace Reed's Superiority in Samantha's Relationship

Grace Reed truly dislikes the Garretts' family and Samantha secretly has a secret relationship with one of the Garretts' kids named Jase Garrett. One day, Grace Reed finds Samantha's relationship with Jase. By the time she figures it out that she is strongly opposed with Samantha's relationship as quoted below:

“So what?” I say. “He has a big family. Why is that such an issue for you?”. Mom is shaking her head slowly. “Your father came from a family just like that. Did you know that? Big and messy and completely irresponsible. And look how your father turned out.” (Fitzpatrick, 2012: 188).

The dialogue above implies that the reason that she does not like the Garretts because they have a big family just like Samantha's father. She assures that one with big family is an irresponsible person.

One day, Grace Reed's car accidentally hit Mr. Garret that puts Mr. Garrett in a coma. However, Grace Reed does not stop her car when she hits Mr. Garrett to check on him. When Grace and Clay talk about this accident at home, Samantha hears all the conversation and asks her mother to confess her mistake to the Garretts because the Garrett' household is in turmoil. Grace Reed refuses to take a responsibility because it will ruin her campaign, instead she tells Samantha to keep her mouth shut as quoted below:

“You can't just tidy up and forget it, Mom. The Garretts have no health insurance. Did you know that?”

“Don't speak to me that way, Samantha. I'm the parent here. I am doing the responsible thing, staying where I can do the greater good. How will it help the Garretts if I lose my job, if I have to retire in disgrace? That won't fix anything. What's done is done.” (Fitzpatrick, 2012:264).

Grace Reed also does not reflect her fatal mistakes and acts like nothing happens, and still puts her campaign upon everything, as quoted below:

“It’s your fault that it matters that they don’t. He ‘s going to be in the hospital for months! Then maybe rehab —who knows for how long? The hardware store was already struggling.”

“That also has nothing to do with me. Many small businesses are struggling, Samantha. It’s unfortunate, and you know I’ve made speeches about that very issue.” (Fitzpatrick, 2012: 263).

In this case, Grace Reed shows that she is an avoiding type of person in facing problem. She is avoiding difficulties to avoid the possibilities of failure.

4.2 The Factors of Grace Reed Superiority Feeling

4.2.1 Grace Reed got dumped by her former husband

In Grace Reed’s character, she shows strive for superiority because she gets dumped by her husband in the past and raises her daughters alone. Since then, Grace Reed wants to prove that she is a great mother, even though she is a single parent as quoted below:

“Sweetie, you just don’t understand how hard it is to be a parent, much less a single one. I’ve been working without a map since you both were born. Never knowing if I’m making the right call. Look at Tracy and that shoplifting incident. And you and that Michael, who might have been doing drugs for all I know.”(Fitzpatrick, 2012: 87).

In this case, Grace Reed’s superiority feeling is affected by her inferiority feeling in the past.

4.2.2 The presence of Grace Reed’s new boyfriend

Since she comes into politics and running for reelection, Grace Reed becomes a person that Samantha hardly recognizes especially when Clay Tucker, Grace’s new political advisor and boyfriend, comes into her life. After Clay Tucker comes into Grace’s life and Grace comes into politics world, she becomes more confident that she is a super woman, as quoted below:

Mom pulls the filtered water out of the refrigerator and pours it into the teakettle. “Clay says I’m bigger than this position. I could be important. I could be something more than the woman with the trust fund who bought her way into power.” (Fitzpatrick, 2012:64).

Other than that, Grace Reed also wants Clay Tucker to see her as a super mother. Grace tells all good things about Samantha that Samantha reflects herself perfectly, as quoted below:

“You’re going to love Samantha, Clay. Such a smart girl. This past year she took all AP classes. A pluses in every one. She was on the yearbook staff, the school newspaper, used to be on the swim team. A star, my girl.”... “Like mother, like daughter,” Clay says (Fitzpatrick, 2012: 12).

However, in reality, Samantha does not want to do all those kind of things.

She only does it because her mother asks her to do so. In this case, however, Grace Reed shows that she is the getting type, she expects to receive satisfaction from Clay and becomes dependent on him.

4.2.3 Grace Reed does not want to get dumped again

Another factor that makes Grace Reed reflect her superiority towards Samantha is because she knows that Clay only takes an advantage from her. When Samantha figures out that Grace Reed is the person who hits Mr. Garrett, Grace insists Samantha not to tell anyone because if she does such a thing, Grace Reed will lose her opportunity in campaign and Clay Tucker will leave her, as quoted below:

“I will lose Clay too. If there’s a scandal, when there’s a scandal and I have to resign—he won’t stick around. Clay Tucker plays for the winning team. That’s who he is” (Fitzpatrick, 2012: 293).

Through Grace Reed’s dialogue above, it can be seen that she does not want that another man dumps her again as her former husband does, so she wants to become a great woman and keep her job well.

4.3 The effects of Grace Reed's Superiority Upon Samantha Reed

4.3.1 Samantha Reed lost the figure of mother from Grace Reed

As it is written earlier, since Grace Reed comes to politic activities and meets Clay Tucker, she becomes a different person. She barely cares about Samantha anymore. However, the presence of Clay in Grace's life makes Samantha unhappy because she finds that Clay is controlling her mother too much. Grace also orders Samantha to listen to Clay, as quoted below:

Clay Tucker lives and breathes politics. He makes Mom, with her relentless schedules, seem like a casual dabbler. He's turning her into someone new, someone like him. Maybe that's a good thing...But the fact is, I miss my mom" (Fitzpatrick, 2012:108).

Through the dialogue above, it is clear that Samantha realizes that Clay takes a control of her mother and makes Samantha hardly recognize her mother anymore.

4.3.2 Samantha Reed got depressed after her break up with Jase Garrett

After hit-and-run accident upon Mr. Garrett by Grace Reed, Mr. Garrett lies in a coma in the hospital. The Garrett household is in turmoil and Samantha is wracked with guilt over what she knows. She tries to talk to her mom and Clay again about how wrong it is for them to hide this accident, but they threaten to pull some of the Garretts' hardware store contracts if Samantha does not breakup with Jase. This would place the family in even more financial problem as quoted below:

For a moment, the words crowd into my mouth. My mother nearly killed the father of the boy I love and now I've broken his heart and I can't tell anyone. I don't know who my own mother is anymore and I don't recognize myself and everything is terrible (Fitzpatrick, 2012: 274).

After Samantha breaks up with Jase Garret, she gets depressed, quits her jobs, spends hours in her room, and does not want to talk with anyone about her problems. It makes Tim, Samantha's best friend, confused on what happens to Samantha as quoted below:

“Leave me alone.” I yank it away from him
“The hell I will. Don't you pull that ice queen bullshit with me, Samantha. You dumped Jase with no explanation. Nan won't say jack shit about you except that you aren't friends anymore. Look at you—you look like hell. You're all skinny and pale. You don't even look like the same girl. What is happening to you?”
(Fitzpatrick, 2012: 279).

Based on the dialogue above, it can be seen that Samantha goes through a hard life after she breaks up with Jase. This is clearly seen that Samantha cannot do anything even it is for her own good if Grace Reed demands her to do something, she must do it.

5. CONCLUSION

Huntley Fitzpatrick's *My Life Next Door* shows superiority complex of a mother named Grace Reed upon her daughter named Samantha Reed. Since Grace Reed running for the election, Samantha Reed becomes hardly recognize her mother anymore. Grace always demands Samantha to live in Grace's way for her own benefit especially after Clay Tucker, Grace's new boyfriend, comes into her life, Grace asks Samantha to obey Clay Tucker. Grace Reed also always looks down on her new neighbor called the Garrett and when Grace Reed finds out that Samantha has a relationship with Jase Garrett, Grace strongly opposed their relationship. By the time Samantha finds out that Grace is the one who makes Mr. Garret, the father of

Samantha's boyfriend, falls unconscious in the hospital because of hit-and-run accident, she asks Grace to confess her fault to the Garrett but Grace doesn't want to do it because it will destroy her career. Grace Reed and her boyfriend, Clay Tucker, threaten to pull the Garretts' hardware store if Samantha tell anyone about the accident and force Samantha to break up with Jase Garrett. After the break up, Samantha becomes depressed. From this case, it can be seen that Grace has successfully destroys Samantha's life because of her superiority. As a daughter and weaker person, Samantha cannot do anything to resist her mother.

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