

FEMALE DEPRESSION IN GUY DE MAUPASSANT'S "MOONLIGHT"

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Abstract

This paper investigates the depression experienced by women found in Guy De Maupassant's story which is sought from the characteristics of a woman who is depressed. It can be seen that Maupassant shows how the character of a woman who is depressed is due to the problems she faces while with her husband. With this short story, it is hoped that women can realize that when they get into trouble we should not save it ourselves so that depression does not occur. This paper analyzes the short story "Moonlight" by Guy De Maupassant (1882). Results from this study revealed that Maupassant wanted to show the side of women who were depressed because of their marriage. Results from this study revealed that Maupassant has shown that women are more prone to depression than men. Women who are depressed will experience physical changes and mood swings easily and women who are depressed are also more sensitive to words that are issued by someone. The depression experienced by a woman can come from anywhere including in a marriage like that experienced by Henriette. In short, this study shows that Maupassant shows how when a woman experiences depression.

Keyword: *Female depression, Moonlight, Henriette and Maupassant*

A. Introduction

This paper explores female depression experienced by Henriette. Depression is an emotional condition that is usually characterized by very sadness, feeling insignificant and guilty, withdrawing from others, and unable to sleep, auctioning appetite, sexual desire, and interest and pleasure in the usual activities (Davidson, 2006: 372). Smeltzer, et al (2010) described depression as a common response to health problems and is often an underdiagnosed problem in the elderly population. People can be depressed due to injury or illness; suffering from an earlier loss, or they may seek health care for somatic complaints that are bodily manifestations of depression. As Davidson said if someone who is depressed will experience sadness, then that is what Henriette feels.

The reason I chose this short story to analyze was to find out the psychological condition (depression) of female characters in the short story "Moonlight" which was not explained directly by the author. I want to show that the female character in this story experiences depression which starts from the pressure she experienced during her marriage with her husband. I will also explain what factors influence the occurrence of depression in women and what will happen if women experience depression. Here I also want to know why women who are depressed at least male characters look like there is no burden. And finally, if there is a cause, there must be a way to overcome the depression experienced by

the woman. I also tried to explain how Henriette's character struggled to fight the depression she suffered during her marriage to Robert

This story has four characters, only two characters that are quite clearly developed, namely Henriette and Roubere. The main character in this story is Henriette Lotere and her sister Julie Roubere. The story begins when Henriette visits her sister Roubere in Paris. "Moonlight" is a story in a story, because this story originated from the dramatic experience Henriette told Roubere. There were two men who were told by Henriette, namely her husband and a young lawyer who he met while in Switzerland. Henriette was described as a sensitive and emotional woman, who was entangled in a marriage without love from her husband. Her husband was "perfect", but he was insensitive to Henriette. He can't win Henriette's heart who needs love from her. Whereas the young lawyer he met at Swiis was the opposite of her husband. He can treat Henriette lovingly and has gentle words. Finally, even though Roubere was younger than his sister, he seemed to be wiser than Henriette. He advised Henriette that what she needed was actually not another man but what she had to Henriette loved was herself.

B. Literature Review

1. Definition of literature

Literature represents and describes various aspects of life. the literature mirrors and expresses life that is even more ambiguous Wellek and Warren (1956: 3). This means that the literature describes what happens in society. In literature, the author writes an idea that gives rise to various perceptions from the reader. Jones (1986: 1) states that literature, in its, broader sense includes all written materials. Since the general grouping of materials will be in a very various number; history books, philosophical works, novel, poems, plays, scientific articles, dictionaries, magazines, school textbooks, etc.

Literary Works include novels, drama, poetry and short stories. Inside the short story, there are characters from the characters told. One can find out how the character of a character is through what is described by the author. And here I am trying to learn about the psychological state of a female character in a short story "Moonlight" by Guy De Maupassant.

2. Definition of Depression

Smeltzer, et al (2010) described depression as a common response to health problems and is often an under-diagnosed problem in the elderly population. People can be depressed due to injury or illness; suffering from an earlier loss, or they may seek health care for somatic complaints that are bodily manifestations of depression. Smeltzer, et al. 2010), also defined depression as "a state in which a person feels sad, distressed and hopeless with little to no energy for normal activities."

Smeltzer, et al (2010) include some specific symptoms related to clinical depression and those symptoms are feelings of sadness,

worthlessness, fatigue, guilt, and difficulty concentrating or making decisions and other common symptoms change in appetite, weight gain or loss, sleep disturbances, and psychomotor retardation or agitation. (Smeltzer, et al., 2010) Stuart (2013) called major depression when at least five essential features as symptoms that present during the same 2- week period. Symptoms are including depressed mood, loss of interest, weight loss, insomnia, psychomotor agitation or retardation, fatigue, feelings of worthlessness, diminished ability to think and recurrent ability to death. It is considered as a single episode or recurrent. (Stuart, 2013) According to Pratt & Brody (2014), there are the group of symptoms of major depression and the three symptoms are mood symptoms, cognitive symptoms and physical symptoms.

Based on the understanding above, it can be concluded that someone who is depressed will experience a situation where someone feels sad, depressed, worthless despair and guilt. And depression can also cause someone to experience weight loss, insomnia. Someone who is depressed will also feel deep sadness, so he really needs support from the people closest to him. for example, family or friends. In addition, it also requires special handling from experts. People who are depressed will also be very sensitive so that when someone says quite rude to him, his heart will be destroyed as well as his soul

C. Method

This research is qualitative research with a textual method. The textual method will investigate and analyze the literary work which emphasis on content analysis. According to Guba and Lincoln (in Moleong, 2005: 220), this content analysis is conducted by interpreting and making conclusion through identification the specific characteristics within texts objectively and systematically.

The main data or material from this study is a quote, a sentence that shows depression in Madame Henriette Lotere which is in Guy De Maupassant's "Moonlight". To do a more detailed analysis, it is necessary to take supporting ideas from other sources such as Smeltzer, Stuart, Pratt & Brody, and others. Their ideas will provide a critical review of depression experienced by women in the short story "Moonlight" by Maupassant.

D. Analysis

Depression is a mental disorder that can be experienced by anyone, regardless of age due to a technique in his life. But most of those who are depressed are women. why is that? according to Albert women displayed more sensitivity to interpersonal relationships, whereas men displayed more sensitivity to external career and goal oriented factors.¹⁵ Women also experience specific forms of depression-related illness, including premenstrual dysphoric disorder, postpartum depression, and postmenopausal depression and anxiety, that are associated with changes

in ovarian hormones and could contribute to the increased prevalence in women.

Maupassant in his short story entitled "Moonlight" he described a woman who was depressed due to her marriage. The female character must be faced with a difficult situation when he was depressed while married to her husband. The woman here experiences inner stress caused by the marriage she is living in.

Nevertheless, women still have the enthusiasm to get up to fight disturbances in their souls. There are many ways to get rid of depression, such as adequate rest because when someone is depressed, their sleep will fall apart. Though lack of sleep will actually worsen your symptoms of depression. Regular exercise can also reduce symptoms of depression due to endorphins and dopamine hormones that rise when you exercise. Both of these hormones can relieve pain while making the mood much better. Routinely taking medication, of course, medicine is needed by someone who is depressed to reduce the symptoms of depression that is natural. Psychotherapy is also very needed by someone who is depressed to help him through difficult times. And the last way to treat depression is to manage your dietary habit because good food will also affect one's health and vice versa.

This story reveals Henriette who was depressed during her marriage to her husband Robert. The depression that he experienced continued to drag on because he never told his husband about the problem. Until the depression, he had suffered for quite a long time when he came to his younger sister Roubere in Paris the changes in his body seemed so clear that it did not match his age.

This story reveals Henriette who was depressed during her marriage to her husband Robert. The depression that he experienced continued to drag on because he never told his husband about the problem. Until the depression, he had suffered for quite a long time when he came to his younger sister Roubere in Paris the changes in his body seemed so clear that it did not match his age. It can be seen in the following quotation:

On her temples, Madame Lotere had two large locks of white hair. All the rest of her hair was of a glossy, raven-black hue; but there alone, at each side of her head, ran, as it were, two silvery streams which were immediately lost in the black mass surrounding them. She was, nevertheless, only twenty-four years old, and this change had come on suddenly since her departure for Switzerland. (*Moonlight* p.1)

This section implicitly informs the reader that Henriette physically experienced changes caused by the depression she experienced. The narrator shows us that the depression he experienced was quite heavy, so he ventured to tell everything to his younger sister Roubere. Maupassant stressed that Henriette actually loved her husband but her husband's so cold attitude made him depressed. Because as a woman Henriette expects attention and affection from her husband.

When he told all his problems to his younger sister, he told me that her husband was always not in accordance with what he wanted, and sometimes the words of her husband hurt her and her feelings. The author describes the figure of a husband who was so ignorant of his wife through Robert's character. It can be seen in the following quotation:

"And his words froze me to the heart. It seems to me that when people love each other, they ought to feel more moved by love than ever, in the presence of beautiful scenes. "In fact, I was brimming over with poetry which he kept me from expressing. I was almost like a boiler filled with steam and hermetically sealed. (*Moonlight* p.2)

This is because Henriette is actually someone who has a romantic soul who likes poetry. This is inversely proportional to her husband who does not like it. Never mind to like poetry, praise his wife with romantic words Robert just can't. Henriette also told Roubere the incident in a hotel at Fluelen. When Robert had a headache and decided to sleep first he went to the lake to take a walk to see the views around the hotel. Henriette saw such a beautiful scene in fairyland. By seeing the beauty, he lamented the fate he was experiencing. He questioned everything that happened to his married life with Robert. As can be seen in the following quotation:

"I sat down on the grass, and gazed at that vast, melancholy, and fascinating lake and a strange feeling arose in me; I was seized with an insatiable need of love, a revolt against the gloomy dullness of my life. What! would it never be my fate to wander, arm in arm, with a man I loved, along with a moon-kissed bank like this? (*Moonlight* p.3)

For Henriette, when she was quiet and calm, as it was at that time, she was able to put out all the interests she had been holding for so long. Until he really dissolved in sadness, remembering everything he had experienced. Until he cried like a crazy person. As can be seen in the following quotation:

"And I burst out weeping like a crazy woman. I heard something stirring behind me. A man stood there, gazing at me. When I turned my head around, he recognized me, and, advancing, said: "'You are weeping, madame?' (*Moonlight* p.3)

When he cried like a madman he was approached by a young lawyer who asked what was the problem with Henriette, he could treat him well as well as he said polite and gentle. But what he really needed was not a substitute for her husband, but what he needed he was like a moonlight. Because moonlight can make him calm with the beauty he

gives. Even though Roubere was Henriette's younger sister, she addressed the problem of her sister wisely. He sincerely advised and provided support to his elder brother. Because he knows what is needed by his sister now is only the support of the closest person.

E. Conclusion

In this analysis, it was found that Maupassant indicates the female character is depressed experienced by Henriette who was depressed because of her husband's attitude towards him. Her husband was indifferent and could not make Henriette happy as Henriette expected. The female character in this short story experiences pressure in her soul. Henriette had to endure her own suffering until she visited her sister Roubere to tell her all her problems and hoped to get a solution from her sister. He shows how women can experience depression more easily because according to Albert women displayed more sensitivity to interpersonal relationships while displaying more sensitivity and goal-oriented factors. 15 Women also experience specific forms of depression-related illness, including premenstrual dysphoric disorder, postpartum depression, and postmenopausal depression and anxiety, that are associated with changes in ovarian hormones and can contribute to increased prevalence in women. The impact of depression experienced by Henriette can be seen from her physical condition when she visits her sister and she also experiences hallucinations.

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