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Analysis Of Promiscuity In Eimear Mcbride's A Girl Is A Half-Formed Thing

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Abstract

This thesis is analyzing promiscuity on the main character. The purpose of this thesis is to find out and understand how it happened, to look for the two causes and impacts of promiscuity that are described in the novel. The main character is the girl is a victim of sexual violence by her own uncle. As a result of the vile things done by her uncle, She was involved in a deviation, namely promiscuity. She did promiscuity with lots of boys. The behavior of multiple partners in sexual relations without a commitment relationship (promiscuity) is rarely found in women. Because in general, women engage in sexual relations on the basis of love and as an expression of feelings of love towards their partners. When found by individual women with promiscuity behavior, it becomes interesting to look more deeply. The theory used to analyze is Theory by Kartono and Mcleish The research methods used in this thesis are qualitative methods and library research. The author collects data from the novel and from several sources of articles, books, and journals that have a relationship with this thesis. The results of this thesis are to reveal the truth that promiscuity can occur in the main character and get causes and impacts in their daily life.

Keywords: promiscuity, causes, impacts

1. INTRODUCTION

Promiscuity is marital behavior by not limiting to just one match, sexual relations between a number of men and women without any binding rules. According to the Oxford English Dictionary (Elgar, Jones, and McNamara, 2013) initially the promiscuity itself refers to repeated actions, behavior that is carried out carelessly without being picky. Men who are promoted are called amateurs or Don Juan, while women who conduct promiscuity are referred to as amatrice (Kartono, 2007). According to Kartono (2007) himself, promiscuity behavior is free sex performed with many men. According to him, this behavior was strongly rejected by the community because it was included as something that was very immoral.

Pease (2011) say that only a few women behave promiscuity, but usually have different motivations than men. The same thing was also said by Kartono (2007) who said that in general, promiscuity carried out by girls is not driven by motives of satisfying lust as in boys. However, it is usually driven by self-indulgence and compensation for

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psychological lability, because they are not satisfied with their own conditions and environmental situation.

In social life, promiscuity has different standards for men and women. Rollan (2002) says that there have long been different standards that encourage women to avoid sexual intercourse freely, but at the same time encourage men to seek as many sexual partners as possible. Robinson (in Rollan, 2002) revealed that promiscuity in women is less justified than promiscuity in men. Women are considered as being more polite and men are more regarded as "sexual adventurers".

A Girl is a Half-formed Thing (published in 2014) is Irish author Eimear McBride's debut novel, winner of several literary awards and praised by most critics, who agree in its literary quality and richness. McBride wrote her novel about ten years before its publication. The protagonist's bond with her brain-damaged and terminally ill brother will be one of the pivots of the storyline. However, the focus on her role as a sister fades into the background, when she experiences a pubertal sexual awakening that triggers a constant preoccupation about a body she believes has been profaned by desire and lust.

His identity crisis worsened when her parents divorced, and moreover she did promiscuity with her uncle. an event that caused her struggle to define herself, not only as a woman, but as an individual. Thus, as the Girl grew, the painful physical and emotional experiences she went through and the patriarchal society in which she was immersed contributed to the fragmentation of her identity and the distortion of her feelings of manifestation.

This novel experienced childhood sexual abuse, especially in her youth, frequently come to see their own sexual attractiveness as their sense of worth. Self-esteem becomes conditional on feeling sexually desired by another. Thus, the traumatized, sex-addicted individual may use sex in order to experience a sense of acceptance, love and belonging while at the same time, jealously guarding themselves against rejection. As a result of this sexual abuse, the Girl finds it difficult to control herself and losing her identity and have sexual relations with many man (promiscuity).

As a result of losing her identity and having sex with multiple partners, this girl experienced very severe depression, during sexual abuse, mental abstraction allowed her to escape from direct experience by breaking away from her body. In her first experience of sexual violence, she tried to avoid the real world using her imagination. At this point he acknowledges the dark line in his nature which treats sex as a punishment. She welcomed his uncle's continued predation, which triggered his promiscuity.

Her voice reached a sad tone when her brother's tumor returned, she felt guilty for leaving him to overcome his mother's religious mania. This long-lasting violence eventually causes the girl to experience depression. She felt traumatized, embarrassed, guilty to her uncle, mother and brother and all that made it like losing energy and thinking power. He was severely depressed and ventured by promiscuity.

As we know, promiscuity have an increased risk of experience of depression and suicide thoughts and suicide attempt. In terms of suicide risk, the results of this study confirmed previous findings. Suicide ideation and attempt was strongly associated with youth, among those who are unmarried or separated/divorced, among those of depression,

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trauma, sexual violence, lower socio-economic status, and among those who experience economic stress, among those who have more sedentary lifestyles and amongst those who report poor psychological health.

However, despite the strong associations of many of these variables to increased ratios of suicide ideation and attempt, adjusting for them did little to diminish the strength of the association of sexual orientation to suicide ideation and attempt among promiscuity.

In journal of Donald E. Greydanus, MD and Joseph Calles, Jr., MD (2007:259–273) Suicide in Children and Adolescents explain Suicide may occur in a youth without a specific psychiatric diagnosis when one's life is complicated by such factors as sexual promiscuity, abuse, intense personality conflicts, widespread availability of firearms, narcissistic traits, and factors leading to a withdrawal from one's environment shortly before the attempt.

Promiscuity is still very rarely seen specifically in Indonesia because based on Kartono (2007) and several research journals found, promiscuity in society still tends to be equated with prostitution. In his book, Kartono (2007) included promiscuity in one form of prostitution.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Literature and Psychology

Literature is one of the forms of human expression of their life. It can be about their activities, experiences from what human have seen, heard, and felt in life. According to Sutardi (2011:4), literary work is an expression of human that include of experiences, thoughts, feelings, ideas, spirit and belief in a form of illustration of life, which can arouse fascination with language and described in written form. Psychology (based on oxford dictionary) is the science or study of the mind and how it functions. According to Papalia (1985:4) psychology is the scientific study of behavior and mental process.

Literature and psychology study about human being, but they have different object of concern. Psychology deals with the real life situation and literature deals with the imaginary of human being. Theory of literature says: "By psychology of literature, we may mean the psychology study of the writer, as type and as individual of the study of the creative process, or the study of the psychological types and laws present within works of literature or finally we effect of literature upon its reader (audience psychology)" (Wellek and Warren, 1956:81).

2.2 Character

Character is the subject who acts on fiction to establish a story. According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, characteris a person appears in novel, play, and other genres of literary work. Meanwhile, according to Abrams in Nurgiyantoro (2000:165) is the people who shows in a narrative work or drama that will be interpreted by readers. It also has a moral quality and certain preference. Character in fiction can be conveniently classified as major and minor. A major character is an important figure at the center of the story's action or theme. The major character is sometimes called a

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protagonist whose conflict with an antagonist may spark the story's conflict. A minor character is people whose function is partly to illuminate and support the major character.

According to Tomlinson (2002: 25) "A character development refers to the changes, good or bad, the character undergoes during the course events in the8story. If a character experiencesignificant, life-altering events, we, as readers, expect that the character will somehow be different as a result of those events."

While Nurgiyantoro (1995:176-194) explained that character can be distinguished into fivecategories, here the explanation below:

- a. The main and additional character: the frequent of a character that is present in the story. Main character much appears and almost involved in all of scene in the story.
- b. The protagonist and antagonist character: protagonist character is known as a hero in the story, while the antagonist as "the bad guy" of the story and causing a conflict.
- c. The simple and round character: how the character is described and disclosed.
- d. The static and developing character: the static of character's experiences led to the development of characterization. Beside, developing character only following the directions where the plot been described.
- e. The typical and neutral character: the only difference is seen from the life figures circumstances, deliberately presented or not.

Thus the characters are classified based on their role in the story, whether as the main role or a simple character. Each has its own function to completing the story and supporting the previous or the next event occur.

2.3. Causes of Promiscuity

Promiscuity is an action carried out between men and women before marriage. This happens a lot in adolescents because adolescents have characteristics that are sexoriented, emotionally unstable, and a great curiosity for new things. Free promiscuity will not occur in adolescents can be controlled and supported by the social control of those who meet them, giving love, guidance and supervision from parents. According to Kartono (in Saani,2017),

"Promiskuitas pada anak perempuan pada umumnya tidak didorong oleh motif pemuasan hasrat seksual seperti pada anak laki-laki pada umumnya. Mereka biasanya lebih termotivasi oleh kesenangan diri sendiri dan kompensasi untuk kelemahan psikologis yang disebabkan oleh perasaan tidak senang dan ketidakpuasan dengan kondisi mereka dan situasi lingkungan".

(Promiscuity in girls in general is not driven by the motive for satisfying sexual desires like boys in general. They are usually more motivated by self pleasure and compensation for psychological weakness caused by feelings of displeasure and dissatisfaction with their conditions and environmental situations)

It can be concluded that promiscuity carried out by someone is a relationship that is driven by sexual desire, both with the opposite sex or with the same sex, without any marriage ties, and can be done freely with many people.

The immorality acts committed by these girls are caused by:

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2.3.1. Lack of psychological control.

Lack of psychologicalcontrol in general is a loss of psychological disorder characterized by deviant teenage behavior including parental neglect. So that adolescents commit juvenile delinquency such as fighting, screaming, and uncontrollable of emotion. The lack of psychological control is usually based on certain motivations or impulses to do actions that can harm yourself and can harm others. lack of psychological control is also described as a failure to develop sufficient control in terms of behavior.

2.3.2. Low self-esteem.

People who have low self-esteem have negative feelings about themselves, have weaknesses, beliefs about their abilities and inaccurate knowledge of their activities. When low self-esteem is associated with daily activities, people who have low trust or have lost of trust. Tend to feel or behave. People with low self-esteem often feel awkward, incompetent or unlovable. All the above can cause and definitely worsens low self-esteem. People who have low self-esteem do things based on what others think and try hard to cover up mistakes and hope to overcome problems before others realize it.

2.3.3. Lack of character formation in pre-puberty age, puberty age and adolescence.

Lack of character formation pre-puberty age, puberty age and adolescence is the understanding that a person because of something causes to lose his original character or character. This is intended in this discussion is the tendency of teenagers who begin to lose their true identity because of problems that arise in social life. The thing that encourages adolescents to be weak in character building is due to the lack of supervision and attention of parents. A broken family is not only related to family breakdown due to divorce but more to the absence of parents attention to children and vice versa.

2.3.4. Immorality at home carried out by parents or one family member.

The family member promotes abnormal sexual behavior in adolescents, which in turn results in too early sexuality, that is sexuality that is too fast to mature before the actual age of psychological maturity. Then the immoral action takes place in a wild and uncontrolled manner. Much of the health problems that affect adolescene from broken homes are related to mental health – the psychology side of things. If your kid's young, still developing, divorce could result in adolescene suffering from health problems that are more obvious, easier to treat and diagnose. Frequent headaches are one such problem. Emotional childhood problems are a major cause of headaches – it's the unhappiness of it all going through the emotional ringer so to speak, that causes these headaches.

2.4. Impacts of Promiscuity

According to Mcleish in Theory of Planned Behavior for Promiscuity proposed in 2010, Mcleish said miserable parental attachment during childhood resulted in promiscuity. The kind of relationship one has is affected by the relationship with their parental figure during childhood. A person who experienced insufficient relationship with their parents during childhood is less likelihood to secure attachment during adulthood.

Mcleish believed that having a dominant personality is easier to approach potential partners. Furthermore, it is interesting that warm people tend to be promiscuity. In fact, someone doing it as an expression of their warmth to other people. In addition to

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that, a warm individuals have sexual relations with multiple individuals because they consider sexual encounter as a positive act to show their kindness or love. On the other end of spectrum, due to the fear of mistreatment and rejection, cold and antagonistic individuals might prefer to have multiple partners in order to avoid being in a monogamous sexual relationships. They are motivated to engage in short-term mating as the individual can satisfy the sexual desire and continue to maintain their interpersonal distance with their partner.

As the result, the impacts arising from promiscuity according to Mcleish is:

2.4.1. Insecurity

A tendency to lack confidence or certainty in oneself, may be experienced by most people regarding some aspect of their lives. However, for many, feelings of insecurity can be resolved before they have a lasting, harmful impact. When one deals with generalized insecurity for a long period of time, however, the doubt and negative feelings experienced may have a significant effect on life. Insecurity is a situation when someone does not feel safe about self. Insecure is an effort of the emotions that occur when we judge ourselves to be inferior to others. Then regarding a certain aspect that occurs in a relevant life, and things that become assessors can cause negativity in oneself can also be related to oneself which does not have in the division of emotions that are in a certain level.

2.4.2. *Anxiety*

Anxiety is a term that describes psychological disorders that can have characteristics in the form of fear, concern for the future, prolonged worry, and nervousness. Anxiety is indeed commonly faced by everyone. However, anxiety is called a psychological disorder when anxiety prevents someone from living their daily lives and undergoing productive activities. The exact cause of anxiety is unknown. However, it has been proven that anxiety is caused by a combination of certain factors. Like other mental disorders, anxiety is caused by the failure of the nerves of the brain to control emotions and fear.

3. METHOD

In analyzing the data, the writer use the qualitative method. In the qualitative method, analysis begins when the data collected. This method explain about how understanding structure and pattern from the data. Observing the data to understand the phenomenon of what is experienced by the subjects of the research such as behavior, perception, motivation, action (Moleong, 2007:6). In this thesis, the researcher uses novel to get the data and observe the data. The data that observed by the researcher is about positive regards such as love and sympathy. Qualitative descriptive method attempts to understand and interpret the meaning of an event interaction of human behavior in certain situation according to the researcher's perspectives.

After collecting the necessary data, the data is interpreted and analyzed by applying descriptive qualitative methods. Then, the final step is to make the conclusion and suggestion obtained from the study as a result.

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Source of data is collected from the novel that entitled *A Girl is a Half-formed Thing* written by Eimear McBride. This novel was published on 2014 which tells about the life of the leading character unnamed narrator. The other data source are the books in the library, the journal in internet, and the thesis that used by the researcher to support the subject of research, which are book about psychology of literature.

The data or the object of study in this thesis is selected quotations taken from the text of the novel. The quotations are directed to the causes and impacts of promiscuity of the leading character in *A Girl is a Half-formed Thing* novel. The material object that is investigated or discussed is the leading character itself. Each quotation must be properly connected to the available analysis such as the promiscuity.

In analyzing the novel, the most important data collecting procedure that the researcher can do is by reading the novel more than once. Besides reading, note-taking is done to mark the proper quotation needed in the analysis. The note-taking technique is done in order to make clear classification of the selected quotations related to the analysis. The first step dealing with the novel is reading it several times in order to understand not only the story, but also the meaning of the text in terms of words, phrase, sentence and clauses as chosen the text. The next step is to select the text by classifying them through quotations. They are written as proof to strengthen idea of the analysis. The selection of the text is related to context of the causes and impacts of promiscuity on the leading character. In reference to this, the promiscuity is limited to what the leading character says, what she has done, and what other characters say about her.

In the analysis of promiscuity in the novel A Girl is a Half-formed Thing by Eimear McBride, an elaboration of research design should be arranged to support the statement that has written in this thesis. Based on that reason, the simplification of method is urgently needed. The method that is coherently available in analyzing certain data from the novel to support this analysis is qualitative descriptive method. By using this method the researcher describes and analyzes certain data and give interpretation about it based on related books concerning to the subject matter. The data is not the whole text but certain quotation and paragraph from the novel. The interpretation based on qualitative descriptive method towards this quotation, sentence and paragraph should be coherent with term promiscuity which is the focus of this thesis and should be able to support the writer of this thesis in summarizing conclusion in the last chapter.

4. RESULT

After analyzing the data found in the *novel A Girl Is a Half-formed Thing*, the writer found that the most dominant causes of promiscuity is lack of control psychological, low self-esteem, lack of character formation in a. pre-puberty age, puberty age and adolescence. and immorality at home carried out by parents or one family member that experienced in her life. The writer also find two impacts of promiscuity in this novel, there are insecurity and anxiety.

Based on the previous chapter, the writer can conclude that the causes of promiscuity which is occurred on the main character, the girl in novel can be seen from several reasons. First is lack of control psychological, the girl is unable to recognize and

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understand her mood. Second islow self-esteem, the girl feel unhappy and unsatisfied especiallyher mentality. Third is lack of character formation in pre-puberty age, puberty age, and adolescence, because of the lack caring and attention by the parents the girl has a bad character. And the last immorality at home carried out by parents or one family member, the girl promiscuity because sexual abuse her experienced and carried out by her uncle.

There are two impact of promiscuity which is occurred in main character in the novel, they are insecurity and anxiety. The girl as main character has insecurity and her life is sensitive to negative criticism and comments. In addition, this case is the reason of the bad character forming in the girl mind which became a burden on the mind and damage her mentality. She is also to be an anxiety, the girl has a feeling characterized by extraordinary fear and makes it helpless and panic. So, the impact of promiscuity has changed and formed the girl's character into an anger, panic, negative thinking and guilty.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1. Causes of Promiscuity

There are four causes that found by Kartono (in Saani, 2017) which are:

5.1.1. Lack of psychological control

Lack of psychological control is that people who are less able to use emotional intelligence tend to feel sad and stressful which results in easy girl emotions such as screaming, fighting, and uncontrollable. Unclear emotional labels often lead to misunderstanding and eventually trigger irrational thoughts.

Through some of these things, we can find out the characteristics of someone who does not have a good psychological condition. Psychological disorders can have a lot of influence on her life. Basically, a person may be less good at work or even perform basic functions in her daily life.

"But on the outside I'd be running til my burst out. Walking through the gardens. Storming through the trees. I'd rip their leaves off heads off if I could. I would flee the place and abandon ship. I would tear my eyes out nails out. Just. To stop. Just to stop it going in me. What I know. Will happen.Will come.Soon. Get it."

(A Girl Is a Half-formed Thing, Eimear McBride: 99)

Based on the quotation above, the girl is unable to recognize and understand her mood. The presence of unpleasant conditions can reinforce the sense of the lack of psychological control abilities that she has. The girl always thinks that her uncle loves her very much and won't leave her. The girl is insensitive because physical and sexual growth occurs in shock and hesitation in her especially in association with the opposite sex.

5.1.2. Low Self-esteem

Feeling badly about oneself and dropping oneself is one of the reasons for the girl doing promiscuity. The girl experiences a time when life seems very confusing and doesn't know what to do in life. As if the downturn made the girl far from the right norm of life.

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"I can't wash myself clean. I cannot wash my hair my. I tie the long bit back. I lie on beds I stare and watch islands by in clouds of up. Where I would. You. When we were small would make our homes. Happy palace. Where you are going. Soon and when you're gone."

(A Girl Is a Half-formed Thing, Eimear McBride: 138)

Based on the quotation above, the girl considers herself weak helpless and has an inferiority attitude and does not have abilities which means lack of self-respect due to psychological, social, or physical conditions that are less than perfect. The lost spirit experienced by the girl is also one of the effects of continuing negative thoughts. This symptom is usually shown by the habits of individuals who tend to feel pain and do not pay attention to the surrounding environment.

5.1.3. Lack of character formation in pre-puberty age, puberty age and adolescence

Character formation in adolescence is not one of the deviant factors that causes the girl to do promiscuity. Lack of caring and lack of attention of parents makes Adolescents compelled to act beyond the limits of her age. And when that concern and attention goes away, the girl continues to lie and bad character is formed. "I give mother letters a miss after that. I'm not calling. Coming home being good and nice girl as I should. I know. Don't know what's the rub of it. And your birthday. That came. So what's it to me? I think I'll not. I'll not bother at all. Who to say I should."

(A Girl Is a Half-formed Thing, Eimear McBride: 74)

Based on the quotation above, the habit of lying to the girl to cover up delinquency is outside the home and while in the house the girl becomes a kind and obedient girl. Usually, these lies are rooted in the desire to be free which is getting bigger and avoid the chattering of her nagging mother. When the girl succeeds in lying, she will feel satisfied with the lie she did.

5.1.4. Immorality at home carried out by parents or one family member

Promiscuity activities among teenagers usually occur because the girl gets an example from a parent. At least supervision of the girl then there was promiscuity among young people. Parenting is all forms and the process of interaction that occurs between parents and children will affect the development of adolescent personality.

The girl who at that time was thirteen years old, she accepted sexual abuse by her uncle. The girl with her mother and brother moved to her uncle's house because her mother and father divorced. The girl, mother and her brother did not have a home so they moved to uncle's house.

"I am sweating here. Ready to give and not. Not at all ready for what I think I'll get. But I give it. I'll give it. Take this cup. I'll drink I'll not. Thy will be done. Let him kiss me. If he wants. I drink it. But when he reaches I turn away under his thumb. I want to kiss you. He turns my face to him. Dissolving fright under his hands. He put his mouth on mine. This is kiss me."

(A Girl Is a Half-formed Thing, Eimear McBride: 41)

Based on the quotation above, the girl gets sexual abuse by her uncle. Sexual

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abuse behavior that is unhealthy at the age of thirteen is an immoral act. Parents who should educate and pay attention instead plunge towards deviating and violating regulations. Sexual violence committed by uncle on the girl is an act of deviation that is very despicable because his uncle should maintain and provide education in growing the girl to live a better life

5.2. Impacts of Promiscuity

There two impacts that found by Mcleish in Theory of Planned Behavior for Promiscuity proposed in 2010, which are:

5.2.1. Insecurity

Insecurity will be sensitive to negative criticism and comments. That is because insecure people immediately swallow negative comments about it without seeing the positive side. When someone advises the girl not to be too careless, the girl feels people who are not good, cannot take care of themselves and other negative thoughts.

"When I go home brazen flesh lets off the sound of doing something I should not. Our mother careful look and questions, cannot understand the alteration. And she'll not let adjustment be without a nuclear fight. No going off to be another girl than I was before. No. there must be confession. Explanation. Close the bedroom door and bathroom. Keep my body secrets in, hers out if I could."

(A Girl Is a Half-formed Thing, Eimear McBride:56)

Based on the quotation above, the girl does not receive comments or advice from her mother, the girl tends to be more reclusive and keep secrets like meeting male friends and doing promiscuity. The girl's dishonest nature makes her have insecurity behavior. Insecurity that the girl has makes her become fragile and full of fear.

5.2.2. *Anxiety*

One of anxiety is a panic attack, a panic feeling characterized by extraordinary fear and makes it helpless and panic. Anxiety in the form of panic attacks can last a long time and be accompanied by feelings of stress.

Feeling tired of herself is one form of depression experienced by the girl. Sadness experienced by the girl who could not tell what she felt until finally made a fortress against herself and if the unrest came and was the worst she could do just baptize herself.

"Let the water take the thing away. Take body. Tired as I am as you are. Full and watered down and sure that oceans underground will take us. Everywhere we desire. Say yours I say I'm scared now. No you tell me. I never understand..."

(A Girl Is a Half-formed Thing, Eimear McBride: 160)

Based on the quotation above, the anxiety that arose because of the girl felt depressed and sad. Feeling tired and upset always approached when the girl tried not to be sad. The girl did the baptism to erase her sin after doing the promiscuity she did.

6. CONCLUSION

There are four causes of promiscuity which effects on the character. The girl did

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promiscuity that has an effect on her life be lack of control of psychological, low self-esteem, lack of character formation in pre-puberty age, puberty age and adolescence and immorality at home carried out by parents or one family member. The effect that the girl receives from promiscuity is psychic control makes her lose her self-esteem, forgetting that she is not old enough to do promiscuity. Furthermore, from the results of the study also due to the sexual violence behavior of his uncle, the girl did promiscuity. It was concluded that promiscuity behavior carried out by the girl want a partner who could provide sexual satisfaction while fulfilling affection needs in the form of attention and affection. Because, besides prioritizing sexual satisfaction in relationships, the girl also needs attention and affection from her partner.

There are two impacts of promiscuity which implied in sentence of conversation or dialogue that used by the main character in novel. The impacts of promiscuity in the novel most exposed insecurity and anxiety. One of form of impacts of promiscuity which described in the novel is built relation with another in relation to the opposite sex, the girl prefers not to build a relationship of commitment with a partner. In addition, in connection as well, the girl can build or establish relationships with more than one partner at the same time. In dealing with promiscuity, the girl does it to look for sexual satisfaction physically. Besides that, promiscuity can also be done with anyone, do not need to know for a long time, do not have to date, but at least must be interested and comfortable with the opposite sex.

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