

ANALYSIS OF IDENTITY IN MY MOTYHER/MY SELF NOVEL

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ABSTRACT

In this chance, the writer intends to analyze a process of search for identity in a novel by Nancy Friday entitled *My Mother/My Self*. The writer chooses it for containing an attractive story about search for identity. Specifically the objectives of the study entitled *Search for Identity in Nancy's Character in Nancy Friday's My Mother/My Self* are: (1) to describe how Nancy as the main female character in *My Mother/My Self* search for identity, (2) to elaborate the influences of Nancy's mother in Nancy's search for identity, (3) to explain the results of Nancy's search for identity.

The research approach that is applied in this study is psychological approach. It is used in order to analyze the psychological types that is the process of search for identity experienced by Nancy within this novel. Meanwhile the research methodology consists of three things. In the data collection, the writer employs library research and internet browsing. The writer uses the theories that relate to the search for identity, the ways to search for identity, the influences of mother, the result, etc. Those theories become the base in analyzing the data found in this novel. Then the data corpus consists of words, clauses, dialogue, etc that refer to the search for identity in Nancy Friday's *My Mother/My Self*. Afterwards, to analyze the data, the writer uses content analysis which emphasizing the data that is in form of texts.

After analyzing the data, the writer finds that Nancy searches for identity because she wants to change the pattern which regards that a daughter will be same with her mother mostly in her life's aspect. Then Nancy searches for identity through family relation, status symbols, "grown-up" behavior, rebellion and idols or models. The writer also finds that Nancy's mother influences Nancy in attitude and personality through her terrible anxieties and fear. She also influences Nancy in ethical and moral values by being careless and introvert. Meanwhile Nancy in fact can manage the process well. She finally achieves her identity by being independent and different from her mother. She also can make better relationship with her mother.

Then based on the finding, the writer can conclude that Nancy searches for her identity through some ways. During the process, her mother takes significant role and in the end Nancy can get the positive results such the identity itself.

Keywords : *My Mother/My Self, Identity, Nancy Friday*

INTRODUCTION

Learning literature is very attractive and useful. Attractive for it tells many various themes. While useful is because it can enlarge our knowledge. We can learn any scope of study such as psychology, sociology, biology, linguistics, etc for literature relates to them. Before learning more about literature, it is better for us to know first what literature is. Wellek (1963:22) states :

The term 'literature' seems best if we limit it to the art of literature, that is to imaginative literature.....There are

certain difficulties with so employing the term; but, in English, the possible alternatives, such as 'fiction' or 'poetry', are either already pre-empted by narrow meanings or, like 'imaginative literature' or belles-letters, are clumsy and misleading. One of the objections to 'literature' is its suggestion (in its etymology from *litera*) of limitation to written or printed literature; for, clearly, any coherent conception must include 'oral literature'.

It can be seen that actually the definition of literature is still debatable. But, the best

definition of literature is limited in its concept of art. Literature is an art of writing which contains esthetic values. As stated in (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Literature>), literature is the art of written work, and is not confined to published source. Then literature can not be separated from civilization. Every epoch has its own literature. Literature represents the time and place in which is made and told. As result, the literary works are mostly published. Publishing is done in order to share the idea of the writer to the reader. The idea takes several forms such as entertaining, giving critique or praise, or at least telling something to the society. But, there is an exemption which the literary work is not published for some reasons. For this, we can not limited literature in written forms only

Furthermore also in (<http://.wikipedia.org/wiki/Literature>), it is said that the four major classifications of literature are poetry, prose, fiction, and non-fiction. It means that so far we know as stated before that literature should be imaginative. Here, the division of literary works is wider to non-fiction scope. But, however we have to know that in fact the non-fiction work is not wholly scientific. There is always imaginative touch.

Wellek (1963: 25) gives more explanation about this :

The statements in a novel, in a poem, or in a drama are not literary true; they are not logical propositions.....A character in a novel differs from a historical figure or a figure in real life.....Time and space in a novel are not those of real life. Even an apparently most realistic novel, the very 'slice of life' of the naturalist, is constructed according to certain artistic conventions.

The components in every literary works including novel are constructed and combined well to create a great work. The characters, time, and even place in a literary work have possibility containing imaginative influence.

Then the stories which are written in novel take various themes, from social issues, environment, or even human being itself. One of interesting issues relates to human being is the process of search for identity. According to Noreen Wainwright (<http://www.ehow.com/how8149715search-selfidentityhtmlxzzlvgalHhFYZ>), the search for self identity seems to be a fundamental aspect of human condition. Indeed, Socrates called the unexamined life a life not worth living. From the statement above, the writer can say that the search for identity should be experienced by every human being. This process becomes fundamental and crucial for human being lives in developing and changing world. When someone experiences the search for identity which brings many various experiences or even the extreme one, he then will find the essence of himself. Everyone in the world instinctively wants to be himself. If it is reached, there will be a satisfaction.

Since the issue of search for identity becomes a crucial phenomenon in whenever society for every human mostly or even wholly experienced it but with different story, the writer is interested in analyzing it especially which found in novel. The novel chosen by the writer entitled *My Mother/My Self* by Nancy Friday. She is not a very famous writer even she is often criticized. But, the writer wants to analyze one of her book from the other side, positively. Nancy's works are few. She writes about less than ten book. One of them is *My Mother/My Self*. The writer chooses the novel because it took interesting theme about the search for identity experienced by a daughter. The main character in the story

is Nancy Friday who actually the author of the novel itself. As said by Nancy Friday in author's acknowledgement, "I thought myself a good candidate for this subject because although I would have told you I loved my mother, I also felt sufficient psychological space between us, a separation that would allow me to be fair and objective."

In *My Mother/My Self*, Nancy is the second child and has a sister named Susie. She lives with her mother, sister, and previously her nurse, Ana. Her father has been dead when she is still little. Because of her mother's lack in mothering and terrible anxieties, Nancy begins to search for her identity. She struggles with identity through some ways such as family relation, status symbols, "grown-up" behavior, rebellion and models. In this process however Nancy's mother plays significant roles and afterward influences Nancy. Nancy's mother influences Nancy in attitude, personality, moral & ethical values. After experiencing those things, Nancy finally can manage this process well and then can be what she wants. Based on the statement of the problems, the writer has purposes as follow: 1) To describe how Nancy as the main female character in *My Mother/My Self* search for identity. 2) To elaborate the influences of Nancy's mother in her search for identity. 3) To explain the results of Nancy's search for identity

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

APPROACH

In doing this research, the writer employs the psychological approach. Guerin (2005:152-153) states:

"Yet, for all the difficulties involved in its proper application to interpretative analysis, the

psychological approach can be fascinating and rewarding.....In turn, the crucial limitation of the psychological approach is its aesthetic inadequacy: psychological interpretation can afford many profound clues toward solving a work's thematic and symbolic mysteries.....Though the psychological approach is an excellent tool for reading beneath the lines..."

Psychological approach is one of the critical approach to literature. It seems to be difficult for analyzing and interpreting a literary work in psychological way but it is also fascinating for its relatedness which a literary work is created by human, tells about human and then is interpreted in scope of psychology as study of human.

DATA COLLECTION

In collecting the data which will support the study, the writer employs library research and internet browsing. The writer submits the theories relate to search for identity, the ways to search for identity, the influences of mother in daughter's search for identity, etc. The theories then are used to base in analyzing the search for identity in the novel.

DATA CORPUS

The data corpus consists of words, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, dialogue, and discourses that refer to Nancy's search for identity in Nancy Friday's *My Mother/My Self*. The novel is printed in New York City by Dell Publishing Co., Inc. in 1977.

In addition, the data corpus that used by the writer relates to the discussion of the study. The writer takes the sentences which support her analysis about the search for

identity of the main female character in the novel, her ways to search for identity, the influences of her mother in her search for identity and the results of search for identity. For instance, below the writer quotes sentences because they can be proof of the search for identity and the reason of the main female character.

“It is too late to ask my mother to go back and examine evasions she made as silently as any mother and to which I agreed for so long---if only because she doesn’t want to. I am the one who wants to change certain dead-end-patterns in my life. Patterns which, the older I get, seem all the familiar: I’ve been here before.”(My Mother/My Self, 1977:21)”

DATA ANALYSIS

To analyze the data, which is the novel, the writer uses content analysis. According to (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Content_analysis), content analysis or textual analysis is a methodology in the social sciences for studying the content of communication. Earl Babbie defines it as “the study of recorded human communications, such as books, websites, paintings, and laws”. It can be seen that content or textual analysis more emphasize in analyzing the data which is in form of texts.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Analysis

a. Nancy’s Search for Identity

Everyone in this world instinctively wants to be independent person. Before achieving it, he has to experience what’s

called search for identity. Here he will begin to ask about his identity and role. As stated by Hurlock in the thesis by Elly Yulliana that a searching of self- identity is the attempt to express who one is, what his role in the society. This process commonly happens in adolescence which the person had already leave his childhood toward the adulthood. Then the writer finds that Nancy also feels the sense of search for identity. Consider the following:

“It is too late to ask my mother to go back and examine evasions she made as silently as any mother and to which I agreed for so long---if only because she doesn’t want to. I am the one who wants to change certain dead-end-patterns in my life. Patterns which, the older I get, seem all the familiar: I’ve been here before.”(My Mother/My Self, 1977:21)

So it can be seen that Nancy wants to change the pattern that mother and daughter absolutely have same life and identity. A daughter mustn’t be same with her mother. However both of them are different human being. They have their own identity that distinguish each other. Nancy wants to be herself, separated from her mother. She even doesn’t want to be her mother in certain ways.

Then the writer finds out the ways Nancy searches for her identity. First, she does it through family relation.

Nancy lives with her mother, sister, and nurse before. In fact, Nancy doesn’t have good relationship with both of her mother and sister, consider as below:

“The love between my mother and me is not so sacrosanct it cannot be questioned: if I lived with an illusion as to what is between us, I

will have no firm resting place on which to build myself.”(My Mother/My Self, 1977:21)

With her mother, Nancy is not too close as mostly daughters with their mothers. She is aware that she doesn't have good relationship enough with her mother, there is such a gap between them. So that Nancy decides to begin her search for identity. She has to build her own self. Not only with mother, Nancy also doesn't have good relationship with her only one sister, Susie. She very rarely has intense interaction with Susie. Even, they often to be in “fight”. They are different girls.

“From my earliest years I learned from Anna not to tell my mother anything that would cause her anxiety. I don't remember much of my mother from those years. I never got on with my sister when we were little. It seems I was always angry with Susie, ready for a fight. Even as a little girl she was sweet-natured. I considered her “soft,” a loser at all the games we played. “Leave me alone,” I'd tell her when she tried to cuddle me, “I don't like all that mushy stuff.” (My Mother/My Self, 1977:87)

Actually the reason of why Nancy doesn't like Susie is reasonable. She is jealous of Susie. In fact, Nancy is brighter than Susie in many things such as achievement and social environment. But, the thing that makes her jealous of Susie is the more attention which Susie gets from her mother. She expresses her jealousy toward Susie directly by behaving unfriendly.

“My husband says his sister was the only child his father ever paid any attention to: “You have done to Susie what I did to my sister,” he says. “You made her

invisible.” Me, jealous of Susie, who never won a single trophy or had as many friends as I? I must have been insanely jealous.” (My Mother/My Self, 1977: 162)

“I was lucky to have escaped those devastating battles. “I never had to worry about Nancy,” my mother has always said. “She could always take care of herself.” It became true. Only my husband has been allowed to see the extent of my needs. But the competitive drive that made me so self-sufficient was fired by more than jealousy of my sister. “(My Mother/My Self, 1977:165)

The condition in house is not easy for Nancy. The conflict and gap that happen make Nancy feels uncomfortable. She feels that she can not handle it anymore. She wants to be free and independent.

“I think my sister, Susie, was born beautiful, a fact that affected my mother and me deeply, though in different ways. I don't think it mattered so much until Susie's adolescence. She turned so lush one ached to look at her. Pictures of Susie then remind me of the young Elizabeth Taylor in A Place in the Sun. One has to almost look away from so much beauty. It scared my mother to death. Whatever had gone on between them before came to a head and has never stopped. Their constant friction determined me to get away from this house of women, to be free of women's petty competitions, to live on a bigger scale. I left home eventually but I've never gotten away from feeling how wonderful to be so beautiful your mother can't take her eyes off you,

even if only to nag.”(My Mother/My Self, 1977:162)

Nancy finds that there is strong competition in her house. There is an achievement competition between her and her mother. While between her mother and her sister, it is physical appearance competition. It seems odd to see that there is a competition between mother and daughter, but it is the fact. Both of two different generation women compete to get recognition and attention. Actually Nancy has self-sufficient for joining this competition but she feels that it will not make her better. She wants to be free. She wants to live in bigger world, the real world.

As stated by Johnson (<http://www.ficotw.org/strugglingteenlesson.html>) that to assert individuality, the adolescents will wean themselves from parents or family. It occurs on Nancy. She wants to be free which can be meant as being independent and asserting individuality. She wants to separate from her mother and sister.

Beside through family relation, Nancy also searches for identity through status symbols.

Adolescents are eager to express their identity. The prestige they get will increase their self-confident and prestige is not only about physical appearance. The achievement is also a prestige. Here, Nancy more concerns on getting achievements as described below :

“There was a girl named Sophie who moved onto our street when I was ten. Her family came from ”above Broad Street,” which made her more foreign than a Yankee. It wasn’t because she was a year older that I became her slave. Until Sophie, I’d been used to taking

the lead. When a friend slept over, it was I who insisted we have a string between the twin beds, tied to each of our big toe, so that any movement during the night would be sure to awaken us.”(My Mother/My Self, 1977 :119)

Nancy is used to be a leader in her peers and it makes her feel proud. She is accustomed to lead the peers and make decisions. For adolescents, being the leader is a prestige. Although she ever becomes slave for Sophie, the new girl in the peers.

Besides the prestige of being leader, Nancy also struggles with her identity by being outstanding. She tries to be the best in many aspects. It can be seen as follow :

“I think she was at her prettiest in her early thirties. I was twelve and at my nadir. Her hair had gone a delicate auburn red and she wore it brushed back from her face in soft curls. Seated beside her and Susie, who inherited a raven version of her beautiful hair, I look like an adopted person. But I had already defended myself against my looks. They were unimportant. There was a distance between me and the mirror commensurate with the growing distance between me and my mother and sister. My success with my made-up persona was proof : I didn’t need them. My titles at school, my awards and my achievements, so bolstered my image of my self that until writing this book I genuinely believed that I grew up feeling sorry for my sister. What chance had she along side The Great Achiever and Most Popular Girl in the World?”(My Mother/My Self, 1977:161)

Nancy gets her other prestige by getting many achievements. She wants to show to the world that although when she is little, she is not as beautiful and attractive as her mother and sister, but she can achieve more than that. She becomes outshining in her house. She gets various achievements such as titles at school and other awards. It makes her, once again, feels more confident.

“When I outgrew the Nancy Drew books for perfect attendance at Sunday school, and the Girl Scout badges for such merits as selling the most rat poison door to door, I graduated to prizes at the community theater. I won a plastic wake-up radio for the I Speak for Democracy contest. I was captain of the athletic association, president of the student government, and had the lead in the class play, all in the same year. In fact, I wrote the class play. It might have been embarrassing, but no one else wanted these prizes. Scoring home runs and getting straight A’s weren’t high on the list of priorities among my friends.”(My Mother/My Self, 1977 : 163)

Nancy tries very hard to get those achievements. She will do anything for it. She is so ambitious. She wants to be the best in whatever the condition from the prestigious until the trivial achievements.

Then Nancy also searches for identity through “grown-up” behavior. As stated by Powell (1963:250) that adolescents may behave rather crude and overzealous in his seeking at recognition, Nancy also experiences such things. She wants to get recognition or attention from others especially the adults. She thinks that she should try many new things. Her eagerness is very great. Pay attention to this :

“How many months, years, later was it that I tried to re-create that night at Shopie’s? A friend was sleeping over and I rolled on top of her, rubbing up and down. But nothing happened. It wasn’t shameful, it just wasn’t fun. We gave it up and went to torment my older sister instead.”(My Mother/My Self, 1977: 122)

It can be seen that the first “grown-up” behavior done by Nancy is sexual activity. She even does it with her girl friend. Actually Nancy has done sexual activity with Sophie and she feels the pleasure. When she then realizes that her desire to girl is not too strong, she does the sexual intercourse with opposite sex. And she also finds pleasure there. Below is the evidence:

“One night before I left for college, I found myself in the back seat of a car with Morgan. Emboldened by our steps away from the boys of our youth, my friend Kathie and I had telephoned Morgan and his friend Steve. The four of us went to a drive-in movie and suddenly there I was, lying across the back seat in Morgan’s arms. He kissed me, and I began to give myself to what I believed would be as close to heaven as I would ever get.”(My Mother/My Self, 1977:268)

Nancy actually also does sexual activity with her boy friend. She really wants to try new things that seems taboo. She enjoys the pleasure and satisfaction.

Besides sexual activity, Nancy also behaves other “grown-up” behavior. She also smokes.

“I grew up with Helen. I learned to smoke in her kitchen, we studied together for exams all through high school, and when the right Sunday came along, we put on our first garter

belts and stockings and walked into St. Philip's Church together." (My Mother/My Self, 1977 : 205)

Nancy learns to smoke with Helen when she is in high school. However, smoking still regarded as taboo behavior mainly on women. Sometimes women smoker are viewed badly in society.

The fourth way Nancy does is through rebellion. Rebellion demonstrates separation. As Gallagher states in (Powell, 1963:250) that rebellion is an attempt at independence. Adolescents someday will be adult therefore they has to be given such chance to separate from their 'save' environment. So does Nancy in this novel rebel mainly to her mother, as follow :

"She got me a pink elastic belt and showed me how to hook the ends through the metal hooks. I sucked in my stomach away from her finger and rushed her through her patient explanation. "All right, all right, I understand, I can do it". I couldn't wait to get out of the house." (My Mother/My Self, 1977:123)

From that description above, the writer can take a simple conclusion. Nancy doesn't have intimate relationship with her mother. For it, she never feels comfortable beside he mother. It results Nancy's rejection toward her mother attention. Nancy rebels her mother figure. It also can be seen below :

"I can't remember ever hearing my grandfather say to my mother, "Well done, Jane." I can't remember my mother ever saying to my sister, "Well done, Susie." And I never gave my mother the chance to ay it to me. She was the last to hear of my achievements, and when she

did, it was not from me but from her friends. Did she really notice so little that I was leaving her out? Was she so hurt that she pretended not to care? My classmates who won second prize or even no prize at all asked their families to attend the award ceremonies. I, who won first prize, always, did so to the applause of no kin at all. Was I spitting her? I know I as spitting myself. Nothing would have made me happier than to have her: nothing would induce me to invite her. It is a game I later played with men: "Leave!" I would cry, and when they did, "How could you hurt me so?" I'd implore." (My Mother/My Self, 1977:164)

Nancy always becomes bright in many things but her mother never appreciates it. Her mother seems to pretend that she doesn't care to Nancy. It makes the condition worse. Nancy then decides not to tell her mother about her achievements for doing it is useless. She decides not to give her mother chance to praise her. It is a kind of her rejection.

The last way is through idols. In general, adolescents seem to have an idol or more appropriately a model. They want to be like adult so then they begin to search model to be a pattern in which they want to be and how they should behave. Models can be from their own parents, teachers, celebrities and another adults.

First, Nancy's model is her own mother. She is not close with her mother emotionally. They often disagree in many things. Though she doesn't like her mother in certain ways, but she also learns some things from her mother.

"The older I get, the more of my mother I see in myself. The more opposite my life and my thinking

grow from hers, the more of her I hear in my voice, see in my facial expression, feel in the emotional reactions I have come to recognize as my own. It is almost as if in extending myself, the circle closes in to completion. She was my first and most lasting model. To say her image is not still a touchstone in my life----and mine in hers----would be another lie. I am tired of lies. They have stood in the way of my understanding myself all my life.” (My Mother/My Self, 1977: 45)

However Nancy’s mother still influences Nancy’s self-image. She is Nancy’s first and lasting model. In this case, Nancy doesn’t want the life her mother has. Although Nancy tries to have an opposite live from her mother, however her mother seems to shadow her in her paths. She brings her mother into being a model in how behave, think, and run the life.

Besides her mother, Nancy also has another model. She is her aunt, Kate. In adolescent’s view, Nancy doesn’t find a perfect model in her mother. Even she find it in Kate.

“Aunt Kate was the only woman, after my nurse Anna, whose embraces I welcomed, whose breast I allowed myself to lie on. I knew her perfume and the smell of her skin and when the world threatened to be too much in those years, her voice, her presence, the mere idea of her was something to hold on to. “You’re just going through adolescence,” she said to me once, and because she had a name for it, I believed it would end. She was the way I wanted to be when I grew up.”(My Mother/My Self, 1977:224-225)

It can be seen that Nancy is very close with Kate emotionally even the closeness is more than with her own mother. With Kate, she feels comfortable and secure even when she feels that the world presses on her. The adolescence is sometimes felt difficult and strange. And Kate can be wise facing Nancy. It causes Nancy admiring her and she wants to be like her later.

b. The Influences of Nancy’s Mother in Her Search for Identity

Before elaborating the influences of Nancy’s mother in her search for identity, the writer intends to state the relationship between them.. It relates to how Nancy’s mother influences Nancy in general way. Then consider below statement:

“Sometimes I try to imagine a little scene that could have helped us both. In her kind, warm, shy, and self-deprecating way, mother calls me into the bedroom where she sleeps alone. She is no more than twenty-five . I am perhaps six. Putting her hands (which her father told her always to keep hidden because they were “large and unattractive”) on my shoulder, she looks me right through my steel-rimmed spectacles: “Nancy, you know I’m not really good at this mothering business,” she says. “You’re a lovely child, the fault is not with you. But motherhood doesn’t come easily to me. So when I don’t seem like other people’s mothers, try to understand that it isn’t because I don’t love you, I do. But I’m confused myself. There are some things I know about. I’ll teach them to you. The other stuff---sex and all that---well, I just can’t discuss them with you because I’m not sure where they fit into my own

life. We'll try to find other people, other women who can talk to you and fill the gaps. You can't expect me to be all the mother you need. I feel closer to your age in some ways than I do my mother's. I don't feel the serene, divine, earth-mother certainty you're supposed to that she felt. I am unsure how to raise you. But you are intelligent and so am I. Your aunt love you, your teacher already felt the need in you. With their help, with what I can give, we'll see that you get the whole mother package---all the love in the world. It's just that you can't expect to get it all from me.

A scene that could never have taken place.” (My Mother/My Self, 1977:19-20)

Nancy's mother is of course kind person however she is. She is warm and self-deprecating. She is also shy for she has what her father said as “large and unattractive” hands. It makes her feels inferior. Her mother is still confused herself. She also doesn't know how to raise Nancy. Her life is full of uncertainty and anxieties. She realizes that she will not be able to be good mother and it really influences their life. But however she loves Nancy and so does Nancy.

“There is *real* love between most mothers and daughters. There is real love between my mother and me, but it is not that kind of love she always led me to believe she felt, which society told me she felt, and about which I have always been angry and guilty. Angry because I never felt it, guilty because I thought the fault lay in me. If I were a better daughter I would be able to take in this

nourishing love she had always told me as there. I have recently found I could get angry with mother and that it would not destroy her or me. The anger that separated me from her also put me in touch with the real love I have for her. Anger broke the pane of glass between us.” (My Mother/My Self, 1977:28)

It can be concluded that both Nancy and her mother feels guilty for not being good daughter and mother. It makes the relation worse. But, however the worst relationship between them, after separation they then realize the love and as result the relationship gets better. It is suitable with what stated in (<http://www.oppapers.com/essyas/Mother-Daughter-Relationships/32809>), that the relationship between mother and daughter can be a war but then also can be reunited again.

During the process of search for identity, the parents play important roles in influencing the children. In this case, the one who influences Nancy is her mother for her father has been dead. Nancy's mother influences Nancy in some ways with or without her mother is aware about it. First, Nancy's mother influences Nancy in her attitude and personality. The attitude and personality between a daughter and her mother usually can not be separated. They are different women, but they sometimes have sameness in some aspects. As stated before that a mother influences her daughter's outlook about life which then influencing the attitude and personality (Crowder, <http://www.helium.com/items/1598558-how-mothers-influence-theirdaughters?page=2>). Positive outlook of mother will result positive outlook too on daughter and vice versa. Here, Nancy's mother has terrible anxieties.

“Frightened as she was, as much in need of my father as my sister and I were of her, mother had no choice but to pretend that my sister and I were the most important part of her life; that neither fear, youth and inexperience, loss, loneliness of her own needs could shake the unqualified and invincible love she felt for us.” (My Mother/My Self, 1977:44-45)

Nancy feels the anxieties, fear, loss and other negative outlook from her mother. It is caused because her mother is anxious for can't be good mother and the other feeling such fear and loss are because her childhood and adolescence life. All of these influence Nancy's personality become very anxious person.

“If I am “strong,” why is there so much anxiety in my life? Why am I so haunted by fear that my work isn't good enough? Yesterday's triumphs have little meaning; tomorrow “reality” will take over again and I will fail or be found out. Above all, why can't I enjoy what my husband and friends tell me---- that they love me? Why do I dream at night and worry by day about the loss of others? Ever since I can remember, I have been, outwardly at least, a winner---good in school, good at sports, people liked me, I did accomplished work. Why then do I still feel insecure?”(My Mother/My Self, 1977:55)

The anxiety and fear make Nancy never feels secure and comfortable. She is successful in most aspect. She seems to get all her needs but it makes her anxiety instead. She fears if one day they will leave her alone. She doesn't get her mother's love

wholly so that she feels fear of losing other's love.

Even the anxiety of her mother influences Nancy's outlook toward motherhood. How her mother traits Nancy bring significant impact on Nancy. She doesn't want to be an anxious mother like her mother.

“The fear in the house in which I grew up left me when I left that house, but it didn't go away. It seemed to have waited its time and I sometimes feel it stirring within me now I have a house of my own. I wonder how much more of my mother's anxiety I would feel if I had a daughter. If I close my eyes and imagine me with a little girl in my arms, I know the answer too well: too much.”(My Mother/My Self, 1977: 87)

Nancy feels that she also will have the anxiety if someday she has a daughter. Even for just imagine she has a daughter is very fearful.

The second influence of Nancy's mother is through ethical and moral values. Based on Crider's statement (1983:363) that parents and adolescents often disagree is in scope of ethical and moral values. It relates to the judgment whether something is right or wrong. There is no exception on situation between Nancy and her mother.

“I don't know when my mother and I had agreed on that bargain. It seems it had always been that way. I never took the bad news home. Certainly, by the time I was twenty, my mother and I had further refined the deal: since she didn't worry, she wouldn't interfere either. I would take care of myself. That night at dinner I brought along

another of the men I was always madly in love with, this time a bad actor. I mentioned that he was driving me to New York, where we would have a night before my flight to San Juan. My mother never asked where I would be staying in New York, whether I had enough money for my ticket, or what I was doing with such a disreputable fellow, one who obviously had neither the background nor manners for the country club. Instead, she smiled shyly at him, and gave me a neatly folded check for twenty-five dollars.”(My Mother/My Self, 1977:294-295)

Nancy’s mother rarely pays attention to Nancy. She seems to be careless mother. She thinks that Nancy always can take care of herself. She even doesn’t concern on Nancy relationships with men which is of course part of ethical and moral values. Nancy’s mother always avoids in discussing about sex. As she said to Nancy :”The other stuff----sex and all that----well, I just can’t discuss them with you because I’m not sure where they fit into my own life.”(My Mother/My Self, 1977:19). Her carelessness causes bad impact on Nancy. Nancy then thinks that it doesn’t matter if her mother doesn’t care her. She will do anything she likes including doing sexual activity. Her mother knows that Nancy will have far enough travelling even with a bad boy. She also knows that they will have a night before. Anything can happen in that time such as sexual intercourse. But she doesn’t care for it.

Then the next ethical and moral values are about stealing. It can not be received in any ethical and moral values. Then here, Nancy’s mother takes role in causing Nancy to steal.

“The glass bank was shaped liked the world, and as I saw the half of Africa disappear behind my stash, I had a good feeling. But there was no one I could share it with. The only person who seemed to enjoy money as much as I was my grandfather. He had a great deal of it, and what I admired most was his ease with money. Unlike my mother, he treated money without apology. This is how you move around the world, his manner said with great logic, as he paid restaurant bills and bought himself and other people beautiful things. Handling money made my mother anxious, and she raised me never to discuss the price of anything. Her attitude baffled me since clearly you couldn’t even buy groceries without money. What was money so secret and distasteful?

I grew to associate the dirtiness of money with the vile part of me. Except for my allowance, I never asked my mother for money; something more than cash, I realized, was being exchanged. If I wanted something badly enough, I often stole it.

I was right not to ask for more; you cannot take money without strings. I couldn’t afford to be angry at her stinginess then; I still needed her. I am wrong to be angry at her now, not that right and wrong have anything to do with nursery angers. There are two sides to any mother-daughter story of separation; on my side, I wanted to leave home for a bigger world. On her side, I was leaving her. What neither of us could say was that I wanted more than she had, to become more than she was.”

(My Mother/My Self, 1977: 334-336)

Nancy's mother is not only never discussing about sex, but also about money. Such her anxiety toward sex, she is anxious toward money too. Even Nancy sees her mother as stingy mother. She always feels anxious if Nancy handles money. It makes Nancy feels that she can not ask her mother money except for her allowance. This thing really influences Nancy in viewing money. The worst impact is she often steals something that she wants much.

c. The Results of Nancy's Search for Identity

The writer finds the results of Nancy's search for identity especially for her own life and it relates to people surrounding her as secondary effects. The results which Nancy has gotten are felt when she is an adult. Here, actually Nancy experiences the search for identity through some ways as mentioned before. Nancy begins to search for identity based on her strong own want. It results such satisfaction for her later. Here are the results that Nancy get after the search for identity:

"I grew up surrounded by permanence, a world that was warm and generous and promised to go on forever.

I wanted desperately to belong to the world. Society was defined very strictly. It meant living "below Broad Street," having a deep Southern accent and generations of kinfolk just around the corner. Our address was right, I learned to say mirruh instead of mirror, but neither my grandfather's money not the private girl's school I attended could change the fact we were Yankees. There wasn't a house in which I was

not welcome, not a time when I didn't feel loved by the extra mothers I found all over town; but I knew we didn't belong. Even my name---Friday---was different. Later I grew to love its uniqueness just I grew to love being tall, but when I was ten and people asked my name I would slouch and say, Nancy.

Had I not grown up at this tiny angle of divergence from the inbred security of Charleston and the strict rules that such closed societies lay down, I'm sure I would be different today. Perhaps I would never have married Bill or written books on women's sexuality. My life would have been a straight, strengthening line, one solid note; the life of woman never questioned her convictions. But I wasn't cut out for a straight line anyway, or would not have taken so many walks. I would have stayed forever below Broad Street. I would rather live with my old anxiety about feeling left out than to have been merged so completely that I never left Charleston at all. But I know that my ability to live different today, to deal with abstractions, to change and accept consequences rests on what I found in Charleston. As I place one foot forward into the unknown, I have one foot in the secure past." (My Mother/My Self, 1977: 118-119)

When Nancy decides to begin her search for identity, it in fact results good impact in her later life. Her one of ways in search for identity by separation from family and the save surrounding makes her becomes different today as she wants. It means that the result of Nancy's search for identity is successful. She now has her own

identity. She can do what she wants, not because other people want. She is brave to be different, to exit from safe and secure past. But, she still can synthesize the past experiences with her future expectation. She learns from the past time anything to be better in future. She was right to separate from family and environment to get bigger world.

Nancy then achieves what Branden (1996:29) called autonomy. She can get independent survival, independent thinking, and independent judgment. She becomes and gets what she wants since adolescence.

“I took my men and my jobs home to mother. I think I enjoyed them most there. In her home they acquired a final polish, and gave my history with her definition it had not had before. I never understood women who took their anxieties home; I only went there in triumph. I don’t know what I liked more, my mother’s admiration of my single life, or my own feeling of added life when I experienced my world in her house. In my twenties it seemed I had been given the magic opportunity to rewrite our lives together. No longer was home the place I had to leave, but the place I chose to come to. No longer was I wicked for wanting to leave her; now I came home bearing gifts, stories, successes, and people I could share with her. And at last there was something she could give me.”(My Mother/My Self, 1977:338)

Nancy can establish her identity by having jobs. She becomes productive person who can feed and finance her life’s cost. She brings her jobs home means that she now can be proud of her jobs that she chooses and likes. Besides jobs, Nancy also brings

her men which relates to personal relationship to her mother. She is adult now. She has independent thinking toward life. She understands her process of search for identity well that there is higher value on it. The success is presented in forms of gifts, stories, success and people which can be shared with people surrounding her. Success should be shared, not for own satisfaction.

Beside the positive result of independent, the other result that can not be seen trivial is her better relationship with her mother. After all complicated times, finally Nancy can have good relationship with her mother, something that she always dreams of.

“I was proud of my mother. You could put her in a barn and by the way she placed a chair it would become hers. Once I left her I could love her. Distance gave value to all the things around her I had grown up with: the golds and greens and whites of her living room, the flowers, the silver cigarette boxes, the white wicker furniture on the lawn, all were dear to me as they had never been when it had all been mine, when it was all I had. Even her anxieties and shyness that had so upset me as a child were now lovable; they were rallying emotions for all of us. We would follow her into the big comfortable kitchen with our martinis before dinner, as though we didn’t want her out of sight, as though to protect her. She would lay elegant tables, prepare wonderful food with an effortlessness I hadn’t remembered I she had. I began to see talents in my mother I wanted for myself. “I don’t know why we always end up in the kitchen,” she would blush and smile at this new

man I had brought home, and I would touch her and say, "But, Mom, this is where we want to be," loving her now that I hadn't become like her.

I warmed, I softened, I lost my nervous edge in her house. Men seemed to love me more there. I brought them to her, knowing she was on my side. One night in her pretty four-poster guest room and, as in a fairy tale, they were mine for life. What was it about her that drew them to me? I would go out of my way to give them time with her alone. After growing up feeling everyone but me had something with their mothers, now when all my friends were at odds with their families, my mother and I were in bloom. We had things to exchange: she enjoyed my life, and when my lovers saw me with her, it seemed I gained a missing dimension in their eyes: I was a single, sexual person who could take care of herself, but surely they must see that the daughter of a woman as feminine as this must also be a woman herself." (My Mother/My Self, 1977:338-339)

Now Nancy can see the goodness of her mother instead of her anxieties. Separation makes her see her mother wisely that is like her, her mother is also ordinary woman. Afterward she can love her mother wholly. All of these things form healthy attachment with her mother. Her relationship is much better. Both of them enjoy their own selves though in different way. Both of them take care of each other.

Then the last result is the identity which distinguishes her from her mother. In previous discussion, the writer states about the identity which Nancy gets. But it relates

to the term of independence and different person generally. Here, the writer explains the identity that Nancy gets which in specific way distinguish her from her mother. It becomes important for Nancy's mother plays significant role in influencing Nancy's search for identity.

"How many times have I said in this book that my mother and I are totally different women? Oh, I have acknowledged certain minor virtues I got from her----housekeeping, an easy hostess, etc. But compared to those qualities of hers I have always disliked but taken over anyway----her anxiety and the fear which lies beneath my surface independent----how paltry appeared my "good inheritance". I have always thought I had to leave home to reinforce the qualities in myself I wanted because I felt by nature my mother is very timid person."(My Mother/My Self, 1977: 458)

Nancy finally finds that she and her mother is different woman. Although there is "inheritance" from her mother which is in form of anxiety and fear that means they have certain similarity but it can not be conclusion that they are same. Nancy knows that her mother is timid person and she doesn't want to be like her. Nancy is adventurous daughter. She is self-confident and brave. It is very different from her mother who is shy and simple.

Discussion

After analyzing the search for identity experienced by Nancy, the writer finally finds the five ways Nancy searches for identity. First, Nancy searches her identity through family relation. She does not have good relationship with both her mother and sister. It makes her feels uncomfortable. She wants to be free. She

wants to be independent and different individual. For that reason, she then separates from her mother mainly. Second, Nancy also searches for identity through status symbols. In her house, there is a competition among Nancy, her mother and sister. Susie and her mother are very beautiful and they compete in physical appearance. While Nancy is not as beautiful as them. She competes with them mainly her mother in getting achievements. In fact, Susie never wins a single trophy or has as many friends as Nancy has. And her mother, although she has “unattractive” hands, she is still beautiful. She is also good in riding horse and playing piano. In other side, Nancy is very bright. She gets titles at school, awards, prizes, and other achievements. This is in which Nancy searches her identity. She struggles with the condition. She proves to anyone, not only her family but also the peers and society, that she can be outstanding too. Then Nancy searches for identity through “grown-up” behaviors. She does sexual activity with her girl friend. She does it just for having fun and trying new things even that regarded as taboo one. Then she also does sexual activity with opposite sex. She feels the enjoyment and pleasure in having relationship with them, more than with the girl. Nancy also smokes. She learns it with her friend. Beside those ways, Nancy searches her identity through rebellion way. Seeing that her mother only concerns on Susie, she feels that it will not be big problem if she rebels her mother. She wants her mother knows that she does not like her traits on her. The rebellion also represents her separation from her mother. Nancy does rebellion by rejecting her mother values and attention. She does not want her life be arranged and directed by her mother who never shows her love on her. Then as most adolescents, Nancy also searches identity through idols or models. Though the

relationship between her and her mother is not as strong as other daughters, but Nancy still regards her mother as her model. She learns from her mother either the goodness or badness. She learns her unswerving personality instead of her anxieties. Nancy also takes her aunt, Kate, as her model. Nancy admires Kate ‘s personality and all things in her very much. She is an outstanding woman. She is beautiful, smart and independent. Nancy wants to be like her.

Actually the ways where Nancy searches for identity are usual. The thing that makes it different is her relationship with her mother. Commonly, in the adolescence, daughters have stronger relationship with their mothers. But, it does not occur in Nancy. The relationship is cold. It is caused by misunderstanding and miscommunication. Although the condition is like that, her mother still influences Nancy. She takes significant role in Nancy’s attitude and personality. Nancy becomes anxious and fearful daughter caused her mother’s. She feels anxious even when she gets achievements. She feels fearful if then the people around will leave her alone. Nancy is also fearful to be a mother. She does not want her daughter feel her anxiety as she feels. Nancy’s mother also influences her in ethical and moral values. She never discusses about sex with Nancy who as adolescent in her crucial time having great eagerness including toward sexuality. Nancy does sexual intercourse in her young age. Beside that, Nancy’s mother also influences Nancy to do stealing. She also never discusses about money with Nancy. She feels anxious when Nancy holds money. She is stingy. Because of that, Nancy becomes brave to steal something that she wants badly while she can not ask money to her mother.

Then after all complex situation and experiences, Nancy finally is successful enough in struggling and managing her search for identity. She finds out her identity as independent and different woman, separated from her mother. And the other important thing is about her relationship with her mother. After the process, mainly the separation or rebellion, Nancy then can see her mother as woman who also has goodness instead of badness. She can compromise her angers on her. She can understand her mother well. And her relationship with her mother now better.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

In this novel the writer finds that Nancy begins to search for identity because she wants to change the dead pattern in which mother and daughter absolutely have same life and identity. She then searches for her identity through some ways. First, she does it through family relation. Nancy doesn't have good relationship with her mother and her sister too. This situation is not easy for her. She also finds competition among them. Those things lead Nancy to separate from her family in order to be free and independent. Second, Nancy searches for her identity through status symbols. She always wants to be leader mainly in her peers. While in the house, she also takes part in the competition. She competes with her mother and sister by pursuing any achievement. She is very ambitious to be the winner in all games. Third, Nancy takes the way through "grown-up" behavior. She does "grown-up" behavior by sexual activity. She first does it with her girlfriends. She even feels the pleasure. But when she doesn't feel it anymore, she begins to do sexual activity with boys. Nancy also smokes in her young age. Fourth, Nancy struggles with her

identity through rebellion. She rebels her mother rules and rejects her attention. Actually she does it for separating herself from her mother. She wants to show to her mother that she doesn't like her in certain ways. Fifth, Nancy experiences her search for identity through idols or models. Though her relationship with her mother is not good enough, but Nancy still takes her mother as her model in certain paths. She learns both goodness and badness of her mother. Nancy also takes her aunt, Kate, as her model. She admires Kate for her understanding and criticizing Nancy. She even wants to be like Kate when she grows up.

Then during the process of search for identity, Nancy's mother plays significant role in influencing her. Firstly, she influences Nancy in her attitude and personality. The anxieties of her mother cause anxieties on Nancy too. She always feels anxious either in good or bad condition. Even she feels anxious when getting achievements for she is fearful if someday people will leave her if she doesn't get the achievements no more. The anxiety and fear are more terrible when Nancy is fearful to be a mother. She doesn't want her daughter feels her anxiety such what she feels from her mother. Then secondly, Nancy's mother influences Nancy in ethical and moral values. She never discusses about sex and money with Nancy. It results Nancy does sexual activities and don't care about society's view. Nancy also often steals something she wants badly.

In the end of the story, after all complex situations, Nancy can be successful in searching her identity. It means that she finds and then establishes her own identity. Although during the process, she feels anxieties, "bad-mothering", and all that seem negative, but Nancy can manage it well. Nancy is able to find her identity. She finally can establish her identity by being

independent and different from her mother. Nancy also can have better relationship after seeing her mother in different insight, as

woman. Nancy's mother is just an ordinary woman who marries a man in young age and has to raise her two children.

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