

Household Problems In The Novel Gone Girl By Gillian Flynn

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Abstract

This study aims to find out the factors and causes of household problem that portrayed in the novel Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn. This research is expected to be a reference for future researchers. The data source used in this research is the novel Gone Girl. In analyzing the data, the researcher applied qualitative descriptive method through a sociological approach. The data were obtained by reading, identifying, note-taking, and quoting techniques. The analysis applied the social context by Ian Watt's theory. The results of this research showed the factors and causes of household problems in the novel Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn is as a reflection of society. Internal factors were factors that came from each partner, how to resolve the conflicts, communicate, and sexual relations, while external factors were factors that from outside the partner such as rude actions against partners, rude words, the presence of other people in household relationships, problems about children, and parental intervention. The cause of household problems was the cause of an event that gave rise to something such as the occurrence of rudeness, cheating, and incompatibility.

Key words: Household Problems, Causes Factors, Sociological Approach



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1. INTRODUCTION

The value of literature is growing and expanding in modern times. Literature serves as a way of conveying moral messages to society about social truth in addition to providing inner enjoyment and fulfillment. Literary works produced over a period of time may be a guiding force in terms of the socio-cultural, religious, political, economic, and educational circumstances and situations that existed during the development of the literary work. Apart from that, literary works may be used as socio-cultural documents that capture the reality of a particular time, but it is not essential that the literary work produced represents the circumstances in which it was written. Novel is one of the types of "Literature" as an author's artistic thoughts (Syafrota et al., 2013, p. 8).

Literary works, such as novels, are influenced by society while still having the ability to affect society (Irma, 2017, p. 1). Literature is an expression of society, therefore the emergence of a literary work is closely related to the problems that arise at that time. This shows that social problems do have a strong influence on literary form. In other words, the literary work is a

reflection of one's relationship with other people or with society. In this era of globalization, the role of literature is very significant.

Marriage problems are typical, but lengthy and irreconcilable disputes are always followed by bed separation. Household issues are tough to resolve, and they can lead to marital troubles between husband and wife. Economic factors, domestic abuse, infidelity, age, education, repeated rejections of married couples' thoughts, and other social variables are all elements that contribute to the disintegration of husband and wife partnerships (Barus, 2017, p. 19). Furthermore, problems stemming from family meddling can lead to divorce as a result of long squabbles in which neither party can find a solution.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In conducting this research, the researcher used several previous studies as a reference and to support the research.

2.1. Previous Studies

The relationship between household chaos and child, parent, and family outcomes: a systematic scoping review | Household chaos (Marsh et al., 2020) This research is searched five electronic databases and addition to Google Scholar and identified publications via 3 stage screening process, which was conducted by two researchers. The result is Household chaos represents the level of disorganization or environmental confusion in the family home and is characterized by high levels of background stimulation, lack of family routines, absence of predictability and structure in daily activities, and an overly fast pace of family life.

National Alcohol Survey of households in Trinidad and Tobago (NASHTT): Alcohol use in households | (Maharaj et al., 2017) The researcher used standard descriptive statistics to characterize the study population and reported alcohol use within the past year at the household level. The result is approximately two-thirds of households in T&T reported using alcohol. These households were more likely to report psychological, physical, and social problems. Furthermore, in the drama script of Suzan Lori parks entitled "Topdog/Underdog" contains depressions, ID, ego and superego. There were 2 types of the most dominant symptoms were Id and Cognitive symptoms (Anjelia et a., 2021).

Family Problems Experienced by Students of the University of Jordan | (Alqudah, 2016) The study has aimed at identifying the family problems among the students of the University of Jordan. The study results have showed that the most important and prominent family problems experienced by the University of Jordan students are: Problems in communication between family members, problems with emotional expression, lack of respect among family members, and lack of trust in the relationship with the parents. The results also showed that there are no statistically significant differences in family problems experienced by the University of Jordan students from the viewpoint of the students themselves due to the variables of gender, college, and the interaction between them both.

Mental health problems and socioeconomic disadvantage: a controlled household study in rural Ethiopia | (Hailemichael et al., 2019) The result is households with a member who had either SMD or depression were socioeconomically disadvantaged compared to the general population. Moreover, higher disability was associated with worse socioeconomic disadvantage

"An affair to remember": Infidelity and its impact on children | (Sori , 2007) Estimates of the frequency of parental affairs vary (see Glass & Wright, 1992; Kaslow, 1993; Laumann, Gagnon, Michael, & Michaels, 1994), and it is unknown what percent of adults who engage in affairs have children. However, since many affairs occur at various transition points in the life cycle (Pittman, 1989), such as after the birth of the first child, at midlife, or after the children leave home, it is highly probable that a large percentage of these couples have children.

Trends and Factors of Household Divorce in Selangor from 2011 to 2015 (Majid & Hudin, 2017) The results of the study describe the various factors found to be the culmination of the problem. household breakdown among husband and wife couples. In this regard, various parties need to give serious support to the increasing issue of divorce among husband and wife couples.

2.2. Sociological Approach

Sociology of literature is a literary approach that considers societal aspects (Damono, 2002, p. 2). Ian Watt revealed in his essay entitled *Literature and Society* (1964) that there is a reciprocal relationship between writers, literature, and society. Ian Watt uses three conceptual approaches in identifying a meaning in the text, including the social context of the author (writer), literature as a reflection of society (literature), and the social function of literature (society). First, the author's social context. This relates to the social position of writers in society and its relation to the reading community, including social factors that can influence the author as an individual in addition to affecting the content of his literary works. Second, literature is as a reflection of society. Author creates literary works based on the reality that happens around them. Third, the social function of a literary work. In this case, literary works has a social function in accordance with the social conditions of the community at the time of creation of the work. In other words, how far the social values in the literary work is related to existing social values. The social function has three important things that must be considered, namely literature serves as a remodel of society, literature serves as a medium of entertainment, and the relationship between literatures as an educator in an entertaining way.

In this study, the researcher uses the concept of Ian Watt's literary sociology approach among the three concepts. The concept of sociology of literature used by Ian Watt in this study is identifying a meaning in the text, including the social context of the author (writer), literature as a reflection of society (literature), and the social function of literature (society). This concept is considered the most in studying the novel *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn.

3. METHODS

The type of the research used was qualitative descriptive research. Qualitative descriptive research is a method where researchers produce informative data in the form of written and spoken words from the research objectives obtained from both the population and books.

Data were collected and obtained from Gillian Flynn's novel *Gone Girl*, and from several literature books, journals, national and international journals, websites, internet browsing, and several articles containing information about the factors that occur and the causes of problems in the household.

The data would be presented in a sociological approach as a reflection of society using the theory of Ian Watt. According to Ian Watt's theory entitled *Literature and Society* (1964) that there is a reciprocal relationship between writers, literature, and society.

4. RESULTS

Based on the objective of this study, the data findings were divided into four parts.

4.1 Types of Household Factor

4.1.1 Internal Factor Data 1:

The rumors were true: Sixteen writers have been laid off at Nick's magazine. A third of the staff. Nick has been spared, for now, but of course he feels obliged to take the others out to get drunk. They are men, piled in a cab, heading down Second Avenue, pretending to be brave. A few have gone home to their wives, but a surprising number have stayed out. (Flynn, 2012, p. 73)

Based on the data above stated that —The rumors were true: Sixteen writers have been laid off at Nick's magazine. A third of the staff. Nick has been spared, for now, but of course he feels obliged to take the others out to get drunk." This sentences could be classified as internal factor because this household problem came from Nick himself where he was more concerned with spending time with his friends than his wife Amy at home. Nick would rather get drunk with his recently laid-off friends than spend time with his wife. Because of Nick's drunken behavior, his household relationship became disharmonious and it became one part of household problems. Moreover, some of his friends went back to their respective homes to meet their wives, but Nick and many other friends preferred to go out to get drunk.

Data 2:

These jobless men will proclaim Nick a great guy as he buys their drinks on a credit card linked to my bank account. Nick will have a grand old time on our anniversary, which he didn't even mention in the message. Instead, he said, I know we had plans but ... (Flynn, 2012, p. 73)

The data 2 in the table above shows in order to get validation and recognition from his friends (this jobless man) for his personal interests, he used a credit card without Amy's permission, even though at that moment it was their anniversary and Nick just spent money on other people. Nick's selfishness as an internal factor that saw in the sentence "I know we had plans but ..." Nick consciously remembered the plans they have made but Nick does not really mean it, he just brags and threw the plan recklessly without thinking about Amy's feelings who will look forward to the plan that they will do on their anniversary, in fact, it was just nonsense things that came out of Nick's mouth, he prefers to maintain his own quality in front of his friends rather than celebrate their anniversary.

4.1.2 External Factor Data 1:

But it's Hannah, which is a real woman, presumably like me. Nick has never cheated on me, he has sworn it, but I also know he has ample opportunity. I could ask him about Hannah, and he'd say, I have no idea why she gave me her number, but I didn't want to be rude, so I took it. Which may be true. Or not. He could cheat on me and he would never tell me, and he would think less and less of me for not figuring it out. (Flynn, 2012, p. 77)

Data 1 categorized external factors, the sentence —I could ask him about Hannah, and he'd say, I have no idea why she gave me her number, but I didn't want to be rude, so I took it. Which may be true. Or not." Amy thinks her husband is cheating on her. Even though Nick has not stated that he was having an affair, with him receiving another woman's phone number it can be categorized as having an affair. So far Nick has never cheated on Amy, but that did not guarantee he would never cheat on his wife. Amy also knows Nick has plenty of opportunities to cheat. Because he feels Amy did not know anything about him. This problem includes external factors because there was a third person who appears in Amy and Nick's household, starting with receiving another woman's phone number. So from small things like that, there are household problems.

Data 2:

'Ideal situation! You are ... you're a cheater, Nick. I mean, what happened to you? You were always one of the good guys. Or have I just been an idiot all along?'

'No.' I stared at the floor, at the same spot I stared at as a kid when my mom sat me down on the sofa and told me I was better than whatever I'd just done.

'Now? You're a man who cheats on his wife, you can't ever undo that,' Go said. 'God, even Dad didn't cheat. You're so – I mean, your wife is missing, Amy's who knows where, and you're here making time with a little'

'Go, I enjoy this revisionist history in which you're Amy's champion. I mean, you never liked Amy, not even early on, and since all this happened, it's like—'

'It's like I have sympathy for your missing wife, yeah, Nick. I have concern. Yeah, I do. Remember how before, when I said you were being weird? You're—It's insane, the way you're acting.' (Flynn, 2012, p. 180)

The quotations of data 2 mentioned that Nick had been cheating on Amy and did not even care about her since he just spending time in a conversation with his brother Go while his wife Amy was gone. It took even more for Go to made Nick realized what he had done to Amy. Based on Go's said "Now, you're a man who cheats, on his wife... I mean your wife is missing, Amy's who knows where, and you're here making time with a little." What a shameful husband, cheating is a awful thing, it was become worst by how Nick took it lightly as like the cheating he was done was not a big problem. Then it was all included as an external factor since cheating happened because of someone else and of course it was the consent of both parties. This problem becomes the most frightening thing in the household, because when one of the couples falls into it, almost

many of them ended up divorce, trust and loyalty was being broken, only those who are strong can survived but sometimes there are times for situation forced to give up.

4.2 Types of Household Cause

4.2.1 Rudeness Data 1:

So we're back to black squares. Sweet, doting, loving Nick is gone. Gruff, peeved, angry Nick is back. You are supposed to lean on your spouse in hard times, but Nick seems to have gone even further away. He is a mama's boy whose mama is dead. He doesn't want anything to do with me. He uses me for sex when he needs to. He presses me against a table or over the back of the bed and fucks me, silent until the last few moments, those few quick grunts, and then he releases me, he puts a palm on the small of my back, his one gesture of intimacy, and he says something that is supposed to make it seem like a game: 'You're so sexy, sometimes I can't control myself.' But he says it in a dead voice (Flynn, 2012, p. 185)

This data shows the type of cause that was categorized as rude, because Amy feels that Nick only used it as a tool to satisfy his lust, wherein a marriage having sex both parties should get the same benefit in the form of emotional satisfaction and the distribution of the need for sex itself but what happens Nick seems to only care about his own satisfaction "distant and cold" it was like Nick being unfriendly and ignorance about the feeling of having each other which is actually created in a harmonious household relationship. Amy also has the same need in determining the way they have sex and when Amy needs it emotionally, based on the quotation "he only wants sex his way, on his time..". Nick's rude nature made

Amy feel not only physically but also mentally, it could be seen in Nick's sentence which says "you are so sexy, sometimes I can't control myself." But he says it in a dead voice."

4.2.2 *Cheating Data 3:*

'So, I start making excuses not to hang out so much. I don't call it off, because I'm an idiot, and she's gorgeous. I'm hoping it might turn around. But you know, I'm making excuses fairly regularly: I'm stuck at work, I'm on deadline, I have a friend in town, my monkey is sick, whatever. And I start seeing this other girl, kinda sorta seeing her, very casual, no big deal. Or so I think. But Amy finds out – how, I still don't know, for all I know, she was staking out my apartment. But ... shit ... (Flynn, 2012, p. 271)

"But you know, I'm making excuses fairly regularly: I'm stuck at work, I'm on deadline, I have a friend in town, my monkey is sick, whatever. And I start seeing this other girl, kinda sorta seeing her, very casual, no big deal. Or so I think." The writer started to have a bad feeling for Nick because whatever it was he just felt stressed for his deadline and all the stuff that he responsibly must do it. The obstacle that he has to pass but accidentally met this cute girl and he ended up to attracted then this cause is one of the cheating causes since Nick was fall in love with another younger girl.

4.2.3 *Incompatibility*

Data 5:

'Well, now might be the right time. To start a family. Try to get pregnant.' I know it's crazy even as I say it, but I can't help myself – I have become the crazy woman who wants to get pregnant because it will save her marriage.

It's humbling, to become the very thing you once mocked.

He jerks away from me. 'Now? Now is about the worst time to start a family, Amy. You have no job—'

'I know, but I'd want to stay home with the baby anyway at first—' 'My mom just died, Amy.' 'And this would be new life, a new start.

He grips me by both arms and looks me right in the eye for the first time in a week. 'Amy, I think you think that now that my mom is dead, we'll just frolic back to New York and have some babies, and you'll get your old life back. But we don't have enough money. (Flynn, 2012, p. 186)

Based on the data, the sentence "Well, now might be the right time. To start a family. Try to get pregnant." I know it's crazy even as I say it, but I can't help myself – I have become the crazy woman who wants to get pregnant because it will save her marriage. It's humbling, to become the very thing you once mocked. He jerks away from me. "Now? Now is about the worst time to start a family, Amy. You have no job—" Shows normally a husband and wife who then one of them, namely Amy, finally plan to have children to save their marriage, as Amy also needs to be accompanied by a baby when she was unemployed and stays at home. It had to be delayed because Nick did not agree with the consideration that they were in affluent times, living only to support themselves. Having children would give them a sense of responsibility towards meeting the needs of all family members. This

is included in the cause because Nick's incompatibility does not agree with Amy to have a child in their household.

5. DISCUSSION

In sociological approach, one of the aspects mentions in the theory that literature as a reflection of the society. Ian Watt is also referring that literature as reflection of society and it is clearly related to social problems. It is very clear shown in household problems in the *Gone Girl* novel, which is categorized into two factors, namely internal factors, and external factors. Internal factors described in the novel *Gone Girl*, there are several stories in it such as a husband who is more inclined to his bad nature such as getting drunk using his wife's money, husband and wife who are sometimes rude, don't be themselves or their harsh language pretends to be someone else who seems to be torturing himself, not complementing each other, having bad thoughts about his partner that his wife is a psychopath. The frequency of using internal factors shows 10 data.

External factors are those that contribute to the occurrence of social changes in a community's surroundings. External factors are those that originate outside of a person or an individual. This component encompasses the immediate environment, as well as the people in it. External factors are factors outside the person's self. The external factor is the male who was the dominant strong and aggressive character. As for women, they must act passively, be gentle and give in. This causes many cases of violence committed by husbands. Most wives hide the problems in their family because they feel ashamed of the social environment and do not want to be considered a failure in the household. Apart from that, the husband of the couple in the novel is having an affair, even though his wife is missing, there is no sense of caring which makes the situation worse. Infidelity in the novel is the biggest factor in the occurrence of problems in their household. In addition, do not want to feel the affection of his wife. In-laws interfere in domestic relations which makes the atmosphere even more chaotic. The frequency of using external factors shows 7 data.

The cause of household problems is the cause of the household problem factor that occurs. These two things are a unity that cannot be separated in function in the social process of living in society. The theory of literature as a reflection of the society from Ian Watt is here to describe this condition. In *Gone Girl* novel, there are 3 types the cause of household problems: Rudeness, cheating, incompatibility.

The sociological perspective on deviance has been used to understand rudeness in the family. The basic idea is nature rudeness of individuals is a deviation since they are not capable adjusts from normal things. Visible deviation through abusive behavior may be carried over due to unfulfilled childhood things, lack of affection, and abusive secret relationships before. The frequency of use of cases rudeness shows 2 data.

Cheating is a negative behavior that not only affects the individual and other individuals, but also the social sphere of both such as friends, family, and institutions. Such as the social impact that occurs in the family is a lack of trust and a sense of disappointment. Meanwhile, in the circle of friendship, feelings of disrespect arise. Then within the scope of institutions labeled as negative individuals, the frequency of use of cheating cases shows 2 data.

The incompatibility between two human relationships is one of the problems in establishing relationships based on ego and miscommunication. This is also not only between the two individuals but the role of society can also influence the problem. Society acts as an external aspect that can take part in the occurrence of problems and problem solving, because every human being lives side by side and cannot be separated from his social sphere. the frequency of use of incompatibility cases shows 2 data.

The rudeness problem in the novel show when the husband only uses his wife as a tool of his lust without prioritizing his own partner's satisfaction, besides that because he is already frustrated with his partner, violence occurs in the novel by strangling his wife. The problem of cheating in the novel is also show as a husband who easily falls in love with a cute girl and is younger than him, and in the story it is described that the husband prefers an affair to his wife. The problem of incompatibility in the novel is shown by the way the husband refuses his wife to get pregnant because it is not the right time. After all, they both have no income, besides that incompatibility is described in a careless husband, by forgetting that his wife is afraid of blood, so it can be said they did not understand each other, and the cause of problems in their household.

Internal factors are factors that exist within the individual so that problems occur, external factors are factors that come from the outside environment and can affect household problems, while the cause is a thing or something that makes household problems occur in household problems such as rudeness, cheating, and incompatibility.

6. CONCLUSION

Some of the factors and causes of the household problems in the novel *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn. The factors are divided into two types; they are internal factors and external factors. Internal factors are factors that come from each partners self, communication, conflict resolution methods, and sexual relations, while external factors are factors outside the partner such as harsh words or abusive actions towards partners, the presence of other people in household relationships, child problems, and parental intervention. The cause of household problems is the cause of an event that creates something, such as the occurrence of rudeness, cheating, and incompatibility. Cheating was an act carried out outside of marriage with other people, whether the act was carried out by the husband or wife secretly without the knowledge of others.

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