

AN ANALYSIS OF FALSEHOOD IN ROSAMOND SMITH'S "LIVES OF THE TWINS"

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ABSTRACT: This thesis is the analysis of falsehood among the three main characters in Rosamond Smith's *Lives of the Twins*. The statement of the problems in this thesis are what falsehood are told by the characters and the impact of the falsehood toward the characters in the novel. The object of the study is to describe every falsehood told by the characters and find the impacts of the falsehood toward the characters. In analyzing the topic, the writer applies qualitative research while the approach is psychological approach from Rene Wellek since the study deals with the psychological aspects that cause the characters to tell lies. The main data are taken from the novel of Rosamond Smith *Lives of The Twins*. From the analysis, the writer finds out that the three characters tell lies because of their unconscious memories and their desire. The sequence of the falsehood happens because of Jonathan's lie in the beginning about his twin brother causes other characters tell lies too. The reasons for the characters lies are because the past memory when they were young. The types of lie that used by the characters is outright, exaggeration, and subtle which are commonly used by people to hide the truth of something. In addition, peace keeping lie and protective lie are practiced since both of types are commonly used in couple relationships.

Keyword: falsehood, twins, psychology

ABSTRAK: Penelitian ini adalah analisis tentang kebohongan yang terjadi antara tiga karakter utama di *Lives of the Twins* oleh Rosamond Smith. Rumusan masalah pada penelitian ini adalah kebohongan apa saja yang diceritakan oleh para karakter dan dampak dari kebohongan kepada para karakter di dalam novel. Obyek dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mendiskripsikan setiap kebohongan yang diceritakan oleh para karakter dan menemukan dampak dari kebohongan kepada para karakter. Dalam menganalisa topik ini, penulis mengaplikasikan metode kualitatif sedangkan landasan teorinya adalah landasan teori ilmu psikologi dari Rene Wellek karena penelitian ini berhubungan dengan aspek psikologi yang membuat si karakter mengatakan kebohongan. Data utama diambil dari novel *Lives of the Twins* oleh Rosamond Smith. Dari analisis, penulis menemukan bahwa ketiga karakter mengatakan kebohongan karena pikiran terpendam dan hasrat mereka. Urutan kebohongan yang terjadi dikarenakan kebohongan di awal dari Jonathan tentang saudara kembarnya yang menyebabkan karakter lain berbohong juga. Alasan para karakter berbohong adalah memori mereka di masa lampau ketika mereka masih muda. Tipe kebohongan yang digunakan oleh para karakter adalah outright, exaggeration, dan subtle yang biasanya umum digunakan oleh orang-orang untuk menyembunyikan kebenaran dari sesuatu. Sebagai tambahan, peace keeping lies dan protective lie juga dipraktikkan karena kedua tipe ini umum digunakan oleh pasangan.

Kata Kunci : Kebohongan, kembar, psikologi

1.1 Introduction

Falsehood may happen in someone's life. Although falsehood is a wrong behavior, there are some reasons why people tell a lie, whether it is for good or bad reason. Falsehood can also happen in a relationship of a couple. Sometimes they do it to protect something, to hide their trauma, or to keep their important things.

Falsehood may be defined as a statement that distorts or suppresses the truth, in order to deceive. (Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary). Falsehood is the opposite of the truth. It is one of the defense mechanisms commonly used by human in every situation. "Freud used the defense mechanism to refer the unconscious processes that defend a person against anxiety; they protect against external traits or against internal anxiety by distorting reality in some way (Hilgard, 1975:442)"

Furthermore, DePaulo (1996: 981) proposes that a lie may occur any time someone intentionally tries to mislead another. As DePaulo and her team expect, lying is a fact of daily life. Most people lie once or twice a day. The lies are being told to benefit the liars as same as to benefit other people. Both men and women commit to say falsehood approximately last in 10 or more minutes. In romantic couples or close relationships, usually women tell twice as many lies as men.

There have been many studies on falsehood. One of them is in the Asbatin's thesis (2009) *The Twin Aunt's Lie in Mark Twain "Was it Heaven? Or Hell?"*. She analyzes the reason and the consequence of the main character in the novel. Asbatin uses intrinsic and extrinsic approach that is the psychoanalysis by Sigmund

Freud, while the writer in this research uses the psychological approach based on Rene Wellek

Based on the description, the aim of the study is to describe every falsehood told by the characters in the *Lives of the Twins* novel and the impacts of the falsehood toward the character. The novel interests the writer because it is a psychological novel written by Joyce Carol Oates under a pseudonym name, Rosamond Smith.

In the following, second section contains with the review of related literature, third section explains the research method, fourth section is the analysis of the data and, the last, fifth section is the conclusion.

1.2 Review of Related Literature Previous Study

There are many studies that are related to this research topic, falsehood. One of them is Asbatin's thesis (2009) *The Twin Aunt's Lie in Mark Twain "Was it Heaven? Or Hell?"*. She analyzes the reason and the consequence of the main character Hanna & Hester's lies. She finds out that the reason of the twin aunts lie is because of their impulse.

The previous study has the similarities with the present research, that is lies or falsehood. The different of this research is the literary approach, Asbatin uses intrinsic and extrinsic approach that is the psychoanalysis based on Sigmund Freud, while the present study uses the psychological approach based on Rene Wellek. In addition, the concepts of the falsehood used are different. Asbatin uses many

types of lies from Wikipedia sources, while the writer uses five types of falsehood from Bella DePaulo and Judith Viorst.

Psychological Approach

Based on Wellek the definition of extrinsic approach explains about the study of literature in the aspects such as biography, psychology, society, ideas, and other arts. Psychological content appears in a wide range of literary forms such as poetry, short story, play, and novel. "Psychology of literature," we may mean the psychological study of the writer, as type and as individual, or the study of the creative process, or the study of the psychological types and laws present within works of literature, or, finally, the effects of literature upon its readers (audience psychology) (Wellek & Warren, 1948: 81). Based on Wellek's theory, literary works can be reflected the author's experiences, hopes or dreams. In studying the psychology of a literature, there should be a consideration of the literature and society.

The creative process should cover the entire sequence from the subconscious origins of a literary work to those last revisions, which, with some writers, are the most genuinely creative part of the whole. (Wellek and Warren, 1948:85)

The writer of literary works may have a fantasy dream that cannot happen in the real life, so they explain about what their fantasies that will never happen into reality by writing the work. Psychological approach can be used to analyze the fictional characters using the language and methods of psychology.

The novel in the present study is about a psychological novel that suitable with the theory of psychological approach based on Wellek and Werren. It can be used to analyze the data in this research because the novel emphasizes the characters, their emotional reactions, and their minds.

Falsehood

Falsehood is the synonym of lies that means statement or people act to defense their beliefs if something is wrong by telling the untrue statement or act. Falsehood is one of defense mechanism that common used by human to protect themselves if something is beyond their willingness to accept that. Falsehood is used to deceive someone about something. The Oxford Dictionary and Thesaurus defines lying as making a false statement deliberately by someone who knows it is not true, the state of being false, or a false or untrue thing.

The most commonly accepted definition of falsehood is a lie in the belief of the speaker that they are false with the intention to deceive the hearer with respect to the content (William, 2002: 7) or more formally it is explained that when a person lies, he asserts something to another which they believe it false to get the other believes that its true (Kupfer,1982: 7). Intimate relationships are not built on the truth and nothing but the truth. Most Individuals admit having lied to a romantic partner. Deception would be related to the reciprocal exchange of information, the desire to avoid punishment, and individuals' attachment beliefs (Cole, 2001: 107). Additional research suggests that deception or falsehood most likely to

be motivated by fear of a partner's disapproval (Millar & Tesser, 1988: 111 in *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships* 18 (1)). Romantically individuals have a difficult time detecting deception and tend to assume that the truth is being told (Levine & Mc Sornack, 1992: 108 in *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships* 18 (1)). People who do lie to their close relationship partners, they will feel more distressed than when they lie to partners in casual relationships (Miller, Mongeau, & Sleight, 1986: 64 in *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 74 (1))

Furthermore, DePaulo divides falsehood into four (4): the content, the type, the reason for telling lies, and the referent that means the description of the lie itself (1996: 982)

a. The Content of Falsehood.

Feelings: Lies about effects, emotions, opinions, and evaluations pertaining to people, objects, or events.

Achievements: Lies about achievements, accomplishments, failures, knowledge, and lack of knowledge.

Action, Plans: Lies about what the liars did, are doing, or are planning to do, or about where they were or where they are.

Explanation, Reasons: Lies about liars' reason or explanations for their behavior.

Facts, possessions : Lies about facts about objects, events, or people, or about possessions.

b. The Reason of Falsehood

a.) Self – Oriented : Lies to protect or enhance the liars psychologically or to protect the liars' privacy, lies to protect the liars from

loss of status, or position, or looking bad; from disapproval or having their feeling hurt; to make the liars appear better than they used to be, lies told to make things easier for the liars, or to help them get information, or to protect them from being bothered or from doing something they preferred not to do.

b.) Other-oriented : Lies to enhance or protects other persons psychologically, lies to protects another person from embarrassment, having their feelings hurt, and to regulate another person's feelings, emotions, or moods. Lies to protect another person's privacy, to make other people appear better, to make things easier for another person.

c. The Reference of Falsehood

a. Liar: Lies that refer to something about the lie teller, such as something the liar did or felt. Includes lies in which the liars state or imply their preferences or opinions

b. Target: Lies that refer to something about the target of the lie

c. Other person: Lies that refer to something about a person or persons other than the liar or target

d. Object, event: Lies that refer to something about an object, event, or place

Types of Falsehood

The types of falsehood that are used in this research is based on Bella DePaulo and Judith Viorst. They are:

DePaulo groups falsehood into three types, that is outright, exaggeration, and subtle. Outright is total falsehoods or lies in which the information conveyed is completely different from, or contradictory to, the truth. Exaggerations is lies in which

liars overstate the facts or convey an impression that exceeds the truth. And Subtle is lying by evading or omitting relevant details and by telling literal truths that are designed to mislead. Also includes behavioral or nonverbal lies

Meanwhile, Judith Viorst (1981: 34) in her analysis about *The Truth About Lying* groups falsehood into two different types. They are peace keeping lies and protective lies. Peace Keeping Lies is a lie that designed to avoid irritation and argument; lies that designed to protect the liar from possible blame or pain; a lie designed to keep a trouble at a bay without hurting. Protective Lies is a lie that quite serious because they are convinced that the truth would be too damaging.

1.3 Research Method

Research Design

In this research the writer uses qualitative method in this study. Denzen and Lincoln (2000:4), state that qualitative research involves interpretive and naturalistic approach. It means that qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of, or to interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them. Accordingly, qualitative researchers deploy a wide range of interconnected interpretive practices, hoping always to get a better understanding of the subject matter at hand. This qualitative research is relevant with the topic to analyze the hidden meanings in some phenomena of act that common in human lives in the data source *Lives of the Twins* novel

Research Instrument

The instrument of this research is the writer herself. The writer reads the novel written by Rosamond Smith *Lives of the Twins* as the data source, collects the important point that related to the topic, and interpret the meaning of the important point. The important point that the writer collects is the data that has a hidden meaning in every falsehood inside the novel

Data Source

In this research, the data are taken from a literary work in form of novel entitled *Lives of The Twins* by Rosamond Smith. The data used is in the forms of dialogues and the contexts given by the author.

Data Collection Procedure

In this study, the researcher takes the data from novel *Lives of the Twins*. The data is in the form of words. In collecting the data, the writer used the documentation method and took main points idea techniques.

The writer used following steps:

1. Reading the novel *Lives of the Twins* more than one time.
2. Understanding the content of the novel.
3. Taking note about the content in the novel that related to the topic of falsehood
4. Classifying the dialogues and the statement in the novel that related with the theory in this research.

Data Analysis

The final procedure is analyzing the data that have already been collected before. The procedures of analyzing are as follow: First, the writer identified which part in the novel that contained falsehood and the

impact made by the characters in the novel *Lives of The Twins*. Second, the writer classified the types of falsehood that was used in the story based on the theory. Then, elaborated the result of every falsehood that every character did using content analysis technique.

1.4 Analysis

Falsehood in *Lives of The Twins*

The novel tells that the three main characters involve in falsehood. The three characters are Jonathan McEwan, Molly Marks, and James McEwan. They perform the falsehood differently which will be discussed below:

a. Jonathan's lie to Molly about having a twin brother

However, in one night when they have just moved to their apartment, Jonathan confesses something that he has never told to Molly Marks. It happens when Molly and Jonathan are preparing for bed in their new apartment. Jonathan has created an awkward moment to Molly, that is by telling something that Molly has never heard before. Telling Molly that he has a twin, an identical twin exactly, which surprises Molly because she believes that all this time Jonathan is the only child. He never mentions about has a brother. Jonathan feels sorry for not telling Molly before about that. It can be seen in the quotation below:

It is that night as they prepare for bed that Jonathan tells Molly about having a twin-being a twin. And Molly stares at him astonished. Of course! "His name is James." Jonathan doesn't quite meet Molly's eye, as if he is confessing something shameful. He is guilty about having mislead her and he is very worried, Molly

sees, that she will want to be introduced to his brother. (Smith: 15)

The quotation above discusses Jonathan lies about his twin brother who is his family members. Hearing the fact that Jonathan has a twin makes Molly feel to be in a weird moment. It can be read that Molly feels not to be trusted by Jonathan because he has hidden the truth of his family. The content of the falsehood in this data is a feeling because Jonathan's lie is about his emotion to his brother that make him deny -his brother. It is a self-oriented falsehood since it is used to protect the liar privacy, Jonathan's privacy about his family member. The referent of the data is another person, Jonathan's brother. The type of this falsehood is subtle, which means Jonathan is evading or avoiding the relevant details about the truth.

b. Molly's lie to Jonathan about meets James

In early September, after Molly knows the truth about Jonathan's brother, she tries to get more information about him because the surprisingly fact makes her curious. She calls James McEwan's office to make an appointment using her untrue identity. She thinks that it will not harm Jonathan as long as he does not know the truth. She wants to know well about James for her love to Jonathan. That can be seen in the quotation below:

"It is early September and Molly Marks is preparing to make a mistake half knowing it is a mistake yet unable to guess at its magnitude and what it will mean in her life, It won't harm anyone. She thinks, who could it harm? –

Jonathan will never know.” She dials the number and startled when a woman answers and says pleasantly, “Dr. McEwan’s office, who is calling please?” (Smith: 21)

Molly does not tell Jonathan her plan because she does not want to hurt Jonathan by meeting his brother whom Jonathan does not want to see to anymore. What Molly does is an example of protective lies. This type of lies is commonly used in a couple relationship. The aim of this falsehood is to protect the person to whom a lie is addressed. Molly’s motivation to tell the lie is to avoid any hurt feeling of Jonathan.

c. James’s lie to Molly by pretending to be Jonathan

One day, in Molly’s office in the Rees Foundation, Jonathan stands in front of her doorway. It is a surprise because Jonathan never announces about his coming. Although Molly several times invites him, he cannot come because of his busy work. But that day he comes to have lunch together with Molly. Molly feels happy he come. They eat in the restaurant near the neighborhood where Molly recommends. She does not notice that Jonathan looks different that day, because she is too happy. For example, the sunglasses, the trousers, and the shoes are not Jonathan’s. In the restaurant, Molly figures out that it is James, not Jonathan. She cannot speak, her hands are shaking, she hides her face under her arm. She feels being toyed by James, she is so angry and keeps curse him, but James tries to calm her down. As the quotation above:

“We should do this more often,” the man she believes to be Jonathan says, adding “Darling,” and winking at her. Has Jonathan McEwan ever winked at her in all their months of intimacy? No. And would he call her darling, in quite that way...? James McEwan: smiling openly at her now. “*You!*” says Molly. (Smith: 131)

From the quotation above shows that James plays a trick to Molly by pretending to be Jonathan, which is successfully deceive Molly since they are an identical twin. James lies about his action/plans, his plans for meeting Molly by pretending to be Jonathan. His lie is self-oriented that uses to make things easier for the liar. The referent is the target, Molly Marks. The type of falsehood is subtle because James’s lie is behavior lies.

The Impact of Falsehood

a. Molly’s curiosity appears because of Jonathan

The first impact of Jonathan’s falsehood is Molly curiousness to figure out about Jonathan’s twin brother. Molly feels that her desire to find information about James comes up, when the first time Jonathan reveals the truth about his twin brother to Molly, that causes her be curious about his lover twins brother, James McEwan. As seen in the quotation below:

As he says, reluctantly, apologetically, “An Identical twin brother.”

Molly stares at Jonathan.

She feels her heart trip in apprehension or is it simple dread. Or—a curious kind of elation? “—identical twin *brother?*” (Smith: 3)

She starts to find the information about James by telling a lie to Jonathan. She makes an appointment with James McEwan without Jonathan knowing about that. She thinks that it is necessary to find out about Jonathan's twin brother because of her love to Jonathan.

b. Molly's attracted feeling to James McEwan

Because of Molly's curiosity from Jonathan's lie, she comes back to James office although she gets not good first impression to James. Unfortunately, she becomes attracted to James, who does not have clear differentiation with her lover, Jonathan. Because of one of Jonathan lies, Molly makes a fatal attraction with James. That is a relationship that is not supposed to be happen. The prove that Molly seems to attracted to James as the quotation below:

"Don't you love me a little? –don't you *like* me? I think you do."

"What grounds do you have for thinking that?"

"Am I mistaken?"

"I will admit that I'm attracted to you. Obviously." (Smith: 54)

Molly who has a little feeling to James continues to meets him by keep telling lie to Jonathan. She thinks that she needs to get more information about Jonathan & James relationships that is the reason she wants to see him more often. She has to return again.

c. Jonathan's choices to separate temporarily with Molly

Then the impact of Molly's error is Jonathan very upset and decide to

about his twin brother to Molly without planning about. He lies about

separate temporarily with Molly because he feels betray and cannot trust her. That can be seen in the quotation above:

At first, hearing the voice, she thinks it might be James's and not Jonathan's. but of course it is Jonathan: "I think we should separate, Molly. Temporarily"

Molly begins to cry.

"—Molly please don't. Please, please don't. This is hard on us both, but--" then he says unkindly, "It's just that I love you and I can't trust you. I love you—and I can't trust you. That's it." (Smith: 154)

From the quotation above shows that Jonathan is very upset to Molly. Molly thinks that she can speak to Jonathan in the apartment, but she discovers that Jonathan has already moved out. All his stuff has gone except the thick books in his work room. Then, Molly realizes the meaning of separate temporarily. Jonathan decides to move to the small apartment near his office. He says to Molly that he will pay the apartment bill, so Molly can stay in there.

1.5 Conclusion

From the discussion mentioned in the previous chapter, the writer can find the answers of the statement of the problems about the character's falsehood and the impact of the falsehood. The three main characters in the story tell different falsehoods that connect each other. From the one's character falsehood, it causes another falsehood. The first main character who tells some falsehood is Jonathan. He is a psychotherapist. He lies because of his past memory. He lies the villa which he admits to be sold out, and he lies about James's attendance to

their father funeral to Molly. He has a bad memory that makes him hide the truth about his privacy to his lover. From Jonathan lies, there are many lies that follow. A lot of falsehoods come from his own lover, Molly Marks.

Molly involves in a fatal attraction with his lover's twins brother, James McEwan. She makes a wrong relationship with him because of her curiousness that comes from Jonathan's first lie. She goes to meet James without Jonathan knowing about that although she uses pseudonym name. She routines to meet James by lying to Jonathan. She also lies about her pregnancy, and she lies to Jonathan about her relationships with James. From her lies, she breaks the relationship with Jonathan because Jonathan feels that she has betrayed him. From Molly being wrong attracted in James, there are a lot of true facts emerging. For example, it deals with the reason why Jonathan hides his twins brother existence, the truth why Jonathan's hate to James, the truth about Jonathan's past life, and the truth of Molly's lies to Jonathan. Most of the facts are related to Jonathan. The truth is disclosed because of Molly's discoveries although she gets that by telling many lies to Jonathan and

involves in a relationship with James. In addition, James's lies are that he lies about the reason Jonathan hates him and he pretends to be Jonathan in front of Molly.

The impact from the falsehood towards the three main characters are: First, Molly meets James without telling Jonathan. Second, Jonathan is angry to Molly because of Molly's act. Third, Molly is attracted in James and they fall in love. Four, Molly starts to question on Jonathan's love. Five, Molly and Jonathan has fought. Six, Jonathan and Molly end their relationship. Seven, Molly fights with James. Eight, James mad to Molly. Nine, James become attracted to Molly.

The writer also finds out that most of the lies is suitable with the type of falsehood based on Bella DePaulo: Outright, Exaggeration, and Subtle. Besides, the type of falsehood based on Viorst also mentioned although only a few. Many of the analysis shows that the common type of falsehood used in the novel is outright, which the liar tells different statement from the true. It is common because if someone try to mislead one another, they have hidden the truth by telling different statement from the fact.

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