

# TRAUMATIC EVENTS OF SILAS' LIFE IN GEORGE ELIOT'S *SILAS MARNER THE WEAVER OF REVELOE*

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Abstrack. This research entitles "*Traumatic Events of Silas' Life in George Eliot's Silas Marner the Weaver of Raveloe*". The data are taken from a novel entitled *Silas Marner the Weaver of Raveloe*. This novel is about a living that Silas went through to several past events that happened in which called *Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder*. This research focused on the trauma that experienced by Silas in physical and emotional conditions that affected his secluded in a new place. The factorized intentional human is the factor of trauma in emotionally. The social support is a process into an improvement feeling of sympathy for loneliness one. This research used a qualitative descriptive method which was done in several stages: reading the novel, collecting all the samples, and grouping them. After the process getting the data, the writer put several elements of method, such as literary approach, research design, data source, research instrument, data collection procedure, data analysis procedure. The analysis categorized from statement of the problem and data that grouped according in the statement and gave some support theories and journals to give explain of analysis. In analysis it is discussed about the recovery after Silas raised up the orphan girl that made him gain everything through taking care of the girl by the support of someone who he can trust, put everything into faith and sure that Silas had the orphan child as his own daughter, and accepted an existence of social. The results of this research show that there are similarities between Silas's life and some people today. This research has two categories of the story that determined by the first fifteen years Silas's life at Lantern Yard where a past of Silas's life become trauma in the next fifteen years when he secluded at Raveloe.

**Keywords:** *Traumatic events, Post-traumatic stress disorder, Novel of Silas Marner the Weaver of Raveloe*

## INTRODUCTION

Life certainly gives one condition where not everyone can leave their past lives that make them very difficult to change their life and make them move on from condition that full of negative thinking with all things, can't trust people especially self. This situation will create a mental breakdown and stress feeling that can attack from inside then creates the condition that is called as trauma. Trauma can looks into something serious effect about the wound. Refers by Post-traumatic stress disorder that give deepest wound in people's emotional inside (Schiraldi, 2009). Everyone who experiences this feeling usually can't be separated from emotion for example feeling

upset, regret, and fear to decide something and feels that something will happen the same thing like before and make them fail again. These things also give special trouble because someone will take a long time to try to heal his or her conditions especially his or her feelings. He or she is unable to heal the feeling when someone feeling helpless. His or her unbelief will never help someone to get another help but will only struggle to cure self by his or her own way and make the condition even worse. Trauma is reaction after someone experienced a bad thing in his or her past and changes him or her into different personality (Rosenbloom, Williams, & Watkins, 2010:14). Silas Marner was one of respected member in a religion community at Lantern Yard. He was a person who had strong faith in God and very responsibility person in his group. All of his existence had ruined after he announced that he was guilty. After he expelled from the community, he lost his faith in God and people, he settled into

small village of Raveloe after he heard Sarah's marriage with William. After fifteen years he lived at Raveloe, he lived alone as a weaver, his experienced in the past made him withdrawing from people and avoid stood at crowded places. He only accepted the customer but stopped before his cottage. He had to found some help after his guinea or gold money robbed by someone; he came to the Rainbow to confirm someone whom stole his money was Jem Rodney because he was a poacher. However, people at the Rainbow looked at him as a person who need help so; they accompany him to solve the case. Even his guinea never came back, he got his gold never be able to rob, after found Eppie the orphan girl he got his life again. He could open his cottage for people and came to the crowded place like a church and back to believe in God. The writer chooses this novel because she is very interested in Silas' life that is full of sad experiences but had changed into a happy ending life. The story

concerning the traumatic events that had happened during thirty years of Silas's life before and after he moved to Raveloe village. Therefore, after reading the novel the writer continues to analyze and writes a new topic about traumatic events that had happened to Silas's life according to the story. Before the discussion go to the analysis, the writer will show a statement of the problem through the three questions are described to show the factors generating Silas's trauma in George Eliot's *Silas Marner the Weaver of Raveloe*. To describe the process experienced by Silas dealing with trauma in George Eliot's *Silas Marner the Weaver of Raveloe*. To know the effects of trauma experienced by Silas in George Eliot's *Silas Marner the Weaver of Raveloe*. The scope and limitation of study will focused on the trauma that appears after several events happened that could affect physical and emotional conditions that show changes occur to Silas after he secluded himself in a new place. This study

will use a *Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder* to support the analysis. The significance of study the writer wants to share what she gets from the analysis. For people who also have the same feeling allowed reading this research that is supported by the theory discussion can help them to have a way to be freed from stress feelings and will optimistically continue their lives. The psychological approach shown in the personality of the main character described from the analysis of the research. This research using qualitative method to collect and analyze data that is applied through several implementation techniques that use the novel as the main material that supported by marking to obtain analytical data and several theories and journals as sources of analysis support. Trauma that impacts by the event from accident involves death of someone close or one of family member or something looks seriously wound that impacts by injury, as same as treatment die or very serious

accident. The statement above are not the actually reason for trauma effect, nevertheless, the injury will caused by someone who very important or close. This event appropriately make a painful and also never cope to gain a healing (Palmer, 2012). *Post-traumatic stress disorder* is a ordinary reaction to gaining experience about some trauma. To make the diagnosis Post-traumatic stress disorder, someone must have experiences in life-threatening to exposed the trauma as something that caused by someone who know the weakness of others (Raja, 2012:15). Post-traumatic stress disorder results from very stressful event or series of events, such as war, rape, or abuse that was became feeling created like a abusing victim (Schiraldi, 2009:3). After someone experienced the trauma, he or she will feels helplessness or terror (Rosen bloom, Williams, and Watkins 2010). The type of trauma after someone experience can explained as re-experiencing that makes nightmare caused

the event; may have distressing memories of the trauma; and may have times they feel the trauma is actually happening all over again (Raja, 2012:15). As avoidance because being reminded of the traumatic event (or events) is so painful, the painful feelings associated with actual or potential damage to social bonds. Thus, experiences of social rejection or loss are often described with physical pain words ('hurt feelings' and 'broken heart'), and both physical and social pain are highly noxious experiences. (Eisenberger, 2012). As feeling constantly anxious and on edge, while in in depression lack of energy, motivation and sadness prevail (Peres, Mercante, Tobo, Kamei, & Bigal, 2017). These conditions will create the feeling more stress if someone cannot control it and probably can refuse all things that make the anxious feeling will back. Intentional human is the factor that indicate cause to trauma. Intentional human here caused by manmade, deliberate, malicious acts. Some

examples of the trauma that caused by man-made, deliberate, malicious acts could be happened to someone who lives in a situation full of war, combat, resistance fighting, and abuse. This study is focused on emotional condition looks in emotional isolation, which threats to leave or have affair, intimidation, degrading names, economic neglect, minimizing or denying abuse, taking away power or control, destroying property, torturing pets, physical neglect (living alone, not feeding bathing). Also seen in criminal assault, violent crime, robbery, mugging, family violence, or battery (Schiraldi, 2009:5). Many instruments have been validated for the assessment of several domains of growth, such as increased spirituality, self-understanding, belongingness, personal strength, appreciation of one's life, and quality of relationships (Triplett, Tedeschi, Cann, Calhoun, & Reeve, 2012). The experience that generate from the life crises that give someone a personal strength to

push he or herself needs social support to solve his or her problems. Social support improves social resources by providing sympathy or reduces the individual's feelings of isolation and loneliness (Prati & Pietrantonio, 2009). Someone who experiences trauma takes an action to show the effect as a result from the problem that was attacking his or her safety life. In Silas case, it shows how he had decided to take the result from all that had happened suddenly and avoided everything that reminds him about his trauma which leaves him in pain into numb and made him also cannot leave his past. Because the intrusive thoughts and accompanying arousal are so unpleasant, people with traumatic event desperately try to avoid all reminders of the trauma (Schiraldi, 2009:10).

## **METHOD**

The writer used the theory about *Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder* as a literature reference and several theories to support her analysis. In research of qualitative very

important in study the behavioral science where the purpose of the study is to discover human behavior. The methods of research utilized in descriptive research are survey methods of all kinds, including comparative and correlational methods. The writer used the physical novel by George Eliot title is Silas Marner as her source to find the topic of analysis. She used several of soft file theories to support her analysis and she opened Mendeley application as supporting reference by citing several of Journals. The instrument is the thing that becomes a means of collecting information for the study (Kumar, 2017:22). The writer got all the data from reading all materials she uses and collecting them to be object of analysis. She put all the data she needs concerning the problem statement to analyze to show the condition of main character after got trauma. The writer writes her research after read the novel and found the theory after chose the topic to analyze. She writes the analysis of the topic and then gives some theories and her opinions to support the

readers in understanding the analysis. In this content, the writer apply content analysis that consist of analysis the content of documentary materials such as books, magazines, and newspapers and the contents of all other verbal materials which can be either spoken and printed (Khotari, 2004:110). The writer uses material such as physical novel, some theories, and several of journal to support the theory. She only emphasized her explanation following her topic of research.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

This part will discussed the factors, process, and effects from Silas's trauma. All of this started from the death of a senior deacon and then made Silas as the guilty one. It was due to William's trick to make Silas blamed for deacon's death and that situation made him can't stay along with the people who accused him. "A meeting now? Why? Where were you? What is it about?" "You will hear," was the only reply. (Eliot: 1996:10). without clear information,

William told unclearly about what his purpose tells Silas to come to Lantern Yard with them. He also says, "You will hear," as a tone that he had prepared everything to blame Silas at the meeting and made sure, that Silas will be judge by the seniors of the chapel. After Silas announced guilty, Silas rose to leave the meeting with the others. On his way out, he spoke to William Dane in a low shaking voice.

"The last time I used my knife was when I cut a strap for you. I don't remember putting it in my pocket again. You stole the money and you planned to lay the sin on me. But you may do well for yourself anyway. For there is no God of justice to rule the earth according to what is right." (Eliot: 1996:12)

Silas' hopelessness make he has thought that everyone only sees according to fact before his or her eyes as also for Sarah. The visible evidence that seen not only about Silas stole the money, but that evidenced also became the factor how he was no longer believed that God was just and fair. Manmade traumas can make a fatal impact because can make people lost faithfully and believe each other in humanity, in love and

in themselves. That was only one thing he could do to leave the situation like that he reached his home to leave the situation that was not support him but the problems at Lantern Yard still crowded in his head so he do something else to make stopped thinking by getting his loom to work. Seems the whole of Silas' living very no need others, guidance, and social. After have a new place and live change, Silas only need do everything by self. Such as person who accepts the good and bad in the next unknown life. By that way and style of life, Silas doesn't care about his physical expression, what he need only work day by day in his life. When trauma led to feel disconnected from others, it can also impact his or her fate in the future. This kind of trauma is forming of damage person that occurs into of a several unconditional experience. Trauma as individual results from an event, series of events or set of circumstances experienced by an individual itself as physically or emotionally harmful

or threatening, which has lasting adverse effects on the individual's functioning and physical, social, emotional or spiritual well-being (Mejía, Zea, Romero, & Saldívar, 2015).

Silas Marner was usually bent down under a large heavy bag as he walked along. He carried his work with him on his shoulder when he made his way through his fields and the lanes around the village of Raveloe. He looked so pale, small and strange, that the dogs sometimes barked at him when he went by. (Eliot: 1996:4)

In went through his new life in Raveloe, Silas made distance and avoidance to everyone that could remind him to his trauma. However, living in the village was very usual for children to make noise when they played together. Since Silas life way so mysterious and make a sound when weaving, that was make the children felt curious and spied to Silas window. As illustrated by the statement that if Marner noticed them, he would get down from his loom and opening the door, would look at them in a way that made them run as fast as they could, back to the safety of the village (Eliot, 1996:5). Sometimes, the situation

feels better by let trauma never disappear. Trauma may be changing a person. For some people a trauma which could be so unbearable unless they could keep it up with their natural ability. However, for some others, the trauma could change person to be even stronger to survive even in poor condition or they could face all situations in the right way and be able to change other people. Even though Silas had his new life far from a busy town or mind and had a comfortable place in Raveloe, life still gave him another exam that made him lose something for twice. However, after the second losing, about Christmas time of that fifteen year, a second change came over Silas Marner's life (Eliot, 1996).

“Now then, Master Marner, speak out,” continued Mr. Snell, when room had been made for Marner in front of the fire. It felt very strange to Silas to sit in front of a fire that was not his own and talk to a lot of people who listened more and more carefully to what he had to say (Eliot, 1996:34-35).

## CONCLUSION

This chapter will be a final analysis from the writer about trauma that



experienced by Silas in his life in the novel *Silas Marner the Weaver of Raveloe*. This novel is referring to two parts; the first part is fifteen years at Lantern Yard and fifteen years at Raveloe after his expulsion. The second part is fifteen years after he met Eppie and take cares of her until she got married. Each of part is represent of Silas's life that leads him into three kinds of the type of trauma that described are re-experience, avoidance and anxious. The factor by intentional human that change someone's trauma emotionally, process dealing with trauma make someone had personal strength and social support, and refused all of things remain the trauma as an effect.

Through two statements above, some theories and journals really make an illustration in traumatic events of Silas's life and people life today are have similar experience. This analysis has been giving how that trauma generate in

life, process dealing with it and effect appear after experiences it. Because of this factor about trauma through past life can give the strong effect, it's so hard to survive of the situation especially when the victim is remaining at the same place. However, there is always a chance to fix everything star a new hope. Through a process and keep on going in living their lives with personal strength and social support, can help them open-minded and have a strong heart faces the events of life.

The event that factoring Silas have a trauma in the first fifteen years before in Raveloe was because he experience betrayal, accusation, and avoided when he was at Lantern Yard. He was accused had kills the deacon and stole the money of church. Avoided by people at the church he also

avoided by his lover, Sarah then leave him and married with his former best friend, William. These events are the reason for Silas settled to Raveloe and avoid to known by others.

The event that become a process to dealing the trauma was when Silas lose all of his guineas. The condition that forced him to meet people who could help him found the stolen. Through this situation Silas, feels had companion by others. The big problem became the big changes for Silas because through the robbery case, Silas could open his cottage for others and open his personality to meet the people.

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