

**DAMON SALVATORE'S AND ELENA GILBERT'S
TRUE LOVE IN L. J. SMITH'S *VAMPIRE DIARIES***

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Abstract: This study is entitled *Damon Salvatore's and Elena Gilbert's True Love in L. J. Smith's Vampire Diaries*. This study is about true love between vampire and human. The objective of the study is to find how a human and a vampire express their love. The study adopts the theory of love by Robert Sternberg. The research method is qualitative descriptive to analyze the true love between Damon and Elena by using psychological approach. The data are taken from *Vampire Diaries* novel that is written by L. J. Smith. The study shows that Damon's love story with Elena uses Sternberg's triangular theory of love, which includes intimacy, passion, and commitment. Damon and Elena on the side of intimacy are very visible with the love that exists between them. Passion means the feeling of always wanting to be together with physical closeness. In the novel, it is seen where Damon and Elena always want to live together and do not want to be separated from each other. Commitment means a person wants to spend the rest of his life with his partner. Damon and Elena, get happiness at the end.

Keyword: *true love, triangular theory of love, human, vampire*

Abstrak: Penelitian ini berjudul Cinta Sejati Damon Salvatore dan Elena Gilbert dalam Buku Harian Vampire karya L. J. Smith. Penelitian ini tentang cinta sejati antara vampir dan manusia. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan bagaimana manusia dan vampir mengekspresikan cinta mereka. Penelitian ini mengadopsi teori cinta oleh Robert Sternberg. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah deskriptif kualitatif untuk menganalisis cinta sejati antara Damon dan Elena dengan menggunakan pendekatan psikologis. Data diambil dari novel *Vampire Diaries* yang ditulis oleh L. J. Smith. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kisah cinta Damon dengan Elena menggunakan teori segitiga cinta Sternberg, yang meliputi keintiman, gairah, dan komitmen. Damon dan Elena di sisi kemesraan sangat terlihat dengan cinta yang terjalin di antara mereka. Gairah berarti perasaan selalu ingin bersama dengan kedekatan fisik. Dalam novel tersebut terlihat dimana Damon dan Elena selalu ingin hidup bersama dan tidak ingin berpisah satu sama lain. Komitmen berarti seseorang ingin menghabiskan sisa hidupnya dengan pasangannya. Damon dan Elena, dapatkan kebahagiaan di akhir.

Kata kunci: cinta sejati, teori cinta segitiga, manusia, vampir

Introduction

In life, humans have various needs, one of which is the need for love. Love is a variety of different feelings, statements, and attitudes that range from affection. It can refer to emotions of intense attraction and personal affection. It can also be a virtue representing human kindness, compassion, and devoted care, and selfless kindness for the good of others. According to Scott Peck (1936:81) "Love is the desire to develop oneself with the intention of nurturing one's own spiritual growth or the spiritual development of others. Love is related to the beauty contained in literary works. Literary work is a part of human life that cannot be separated from humans themselves. People can use literary works as a medium to express their feelings or thoughts. According to Wellek and Warren (1949:89), literary works are representations of life. Literary works reflect life in other words, life itself, is reflected or imitated by literary works and we can state that the subject of literary works is the various experiences of human life and society.

This can be seen in the vampire Diaries novels. This novel tells the relationship between humans and vampires. Damon is a vampire who falls in love with Elena who is a human. In the course of love, they are faced with so many challenges, but because of their great love, they decide to defy fate and fight for their love. The reason why the writer interested to analyzed because this study shows how two different humans try to maintain a forbidden relationship which as a result gives birth to true love between vampires and humans. From the novel Smith, J. L "Vampire Diaries", the writer finds statement of the problems which are How they express their true love for each other in the novel? The objective of the study is to analyze Damon's and Elena's expressing their true love to each other how it is portrayed in the novel.

However, there have been three persons who have studied about love story. The first research was conducted by Hana Dewanthi Putri (2018) entitled *A Study of Love in Nicholas Sparks 'The Best of Me'*. In her thesis she writes about the characteristic of the main character, Dawson, who is brave, generous, hardworking, diligent, independent, good-looking, and handsome. The result of her study concludes that love which happens between friend and couple is known as agape love or mostly associated with interpersonal love. Second, the research conducted by Epa Reslianti Harahap (2012) entitled *The Love of Travis and Gabby in Nicholas Spark's 'The Choice'*. Her thesis shows that love can be maintained even through difficult times. She presents these findings in Nicholas Sparks' novel "*The Choice*". She writes the depiction of the love between Travis and Gabby, who has an affair when Gabby is in a coma due to illness and Travis face a difficult choice, whether he should release Gabby according to their will or keep her. The spark of romance is present and they fall in love with each other. Third, Sri Rahayu Darmawati also analyzes love (2009) entitled *Gender Inequality in John Madden's film Shakespeare in Love*. She analyzes the forbidden love of William Shakespeare and Viola de Lesseps, the daughter of a

rich merchant. She describes the romanticism of life in ancient times, and the complexity of love when faces social class. Sri Rahayu's research on the film Shakespeare in Love, due to differences in social status. The novel "*The Vampire Diaries*" also tells about forbidden love because of the difference in the world, vampires, and humans.

The writer analyze the true love using the triangular theory of love by Stenberg (1986), which according to this theory states that love has three main forms: passion, intimacy, and commitment, with psychological approach.

Method

The present study is designed as qualitative research which is focused on the discussion of psychological as the analysis, describe, identify and classify the true love of Damon and Elena. The qualitative research refers to the meaning definitions, concepts, characteristics and description of things. Burhan (2008:40-41) defines that qualitative study focuses on describing and analyzing a phenomenon, social activity, perception, belief, individual and thought.

The data in this study are taken from L. J. Smith novel entitled *Vampire Dairies* (1991) publish in 2001 by Harperten group. This novel consist 105 pages. The data taken from the novel are in the form of quotation's, other reference such as article, books are used to support the analysis. In collecting data, the writer use following steps: (1) Reading "*Vampire Diaries*" novel repeatedly, (2) Understanding the content of the novel, (3) Finding out the data related to research problems, (4) Writing down the significance data from "*Vampire Diaries*" novel, (5) Organizing data into several parts based on their classifications. The writer identifying the was done by marking and underlining the words, phrases and sentences which show information or expression about true love. After the data were collected, they were analysed and described based on the topic of discussion. Based on the result of the analysis, a conclusion was drawn.

Result and Discussion

Elena gilbert's is a sad high school student because, her parents died in the car accident. In the throes, she is trapped in a love triangle with two vampire brothers, Stefan Salvatore's and Damon Salvatore's. But in his journey of loving, she chose Damon's as his partner in life. Meanwhile Damon's is a charming yet ruthless vampire. He describes as arrogant, selfish and also as lacking in manners. Damon's starts showing of on the bright side when he starts falling in love with Elena.

Intimacy

Intimacy is a sense of attachment, and a feeling of closeness in a romantic relationship. This feeling is based on an element of emotion combined with a sense of trust between the two individual (Sternberg, 1986:262). They express love through

action as well as word that make their love strong. The below quotation show that Elena's tells to Damon's that they have something an understanding:

When we were Atlanta why you didn't you use your compul on me? You didn't. I know you didn't, but you could have You and I We have something an understanding and I know that my betrayal hurt you different from how it is you and Stefan but I'm promising you this now, I will help you to get Katherine back (Smith, 1999:10)

Elena describes that their relationship has something special. There is a feeling of attraction between both of them. They begin to bond and realize they are a lot more like than either of them thought. The intimacy between them can be seen when Elena tells Damon's that they can get closer, and get to know each other, trust, and build a good relationship. According to Elena, Damon is unique and kind this is one of the reason why Elena falls in love with him.

I know who you are, what you feel, what you think and what you do in around people. You won't to people don't see any good in you. You will do everything to saves people you love and you won't people ignore you. That was all you wanted, to not feel alone. And I'll always be with you. I promise it. (Smith, 1991: 51)

In this case Damon always feels alone, and then he is close to his brother's girlfriend, Elena. This creates an affinity between Elena and Damon. Elena helps Damon through tough times and Damon helps take care of Elena, and this makes the two become very close, and comfortable with each other that it creates feelings of mutual liking. They express their true love by showing affection with caring for each other, sadness, anger according to their condition or reality. Expressing affection has become a necessity for both Elena and Damon but in different levels and intensities.

I'm choosing to relieve you of having to defend me for every awful thing I've ever done. She is the best thing that ever happened to you. You're the best influence on me, I need you. You are the good, and I need a little good in my life. Because without it, there is an awful lot of darkness and I don't know how much linger I can fight without you. (Smith, 1991: 143)

Damon is a very evil and arrogant vampire. His life filled with shadows. He then meets Elena, and Elena turns him into a slightly nicer man, and brings light to his life. Therefore, Damon needs Elena in his life. Intimacy is the foundation of a romantic relationship, which may start with self-disclosure. The true love can be proven through intimacy that can be seen in Damon's attitude which Elena allows to enter into and change every dark side of his, so that Damon becomes better than before.

Passion

Passion is a motivational component, which is an impulse to love, romance, physical attraction, sexual relations, and other phenomena related to romantic relationships (Sternberg 1986:262). The main passion is an expression of the existence of desires and needs, including the need for self-esteem, friendship, attention, dominance, submission, and fulfillment of sexual needs. They express their true love through physical attraction and sexual perfection. It can be seen in quotation below:

Well, that's not true. You want what everybody wants. I was just say I have been around a long time, I have learned a few things and I know what you want. You want love that consumes you. You want passion, an adventure and even a little danger. I want you to get everything they're looking for, but right now I want you to forget that this happened can't have people knowing I'm in town. (Smith, 1991:80)

Damon gives Elena everything she really wants; passion, adventure, even a little danger. Damon and Elena change each other. Their true love brings out new sides of each other that they have never experienced before. Elena and Damon's true love is what makes the world go round and it's a love that consumes them in it is passion. For him, she is the best thing that has ever happened to him in his life. For Elena, Damon is the one that defines her and she believes him to be her soulmate. Their true love is a passionate that could only be described as epic. When it comes to passion, most people view it as sexual, but that's not all. However, in every psychophysiological need, it can be say to be an arousal experience. For example, a person with a high need for affection may find experience of passion in the person who gives love to him/her.

I'd rather die right now than spend a handful of years with you, only to lose you when I'm too old and sick and miserable and you're still you. I'd rather die right now than spend my last final years remembering how good I had it and how happy I was, because that's who I am, Elena, and I'm not gonna change. And there's no apology in the world that encompasses all the reason that I'm wrong for you. (Smith, 1992: 123)

The quotation above also shows how passionate Damon is in expressing his feeling for Elena. He has a very strong desire to stay with Elena. Damon choose to remain a vampire in order to protect Elena and remain with her in Damon's eternity. Damon's true love in the passion below quotation is very clear that Damon's desire to be with Elena is very big. Passion does not mean having to have sex but what they feel in their hearts to be with the people that he or she love.

Fine, I not sorry either. I'm not sorry that I met you. I'm not sorry that knowing you has made me question, that in death you're the one that made me feel most

alive. You've been terrible person, you've made me all the wrong choices, and of all choices that I've made this will prove to be the worst one. But I'm not sorry that I'm in love with you. I love you, Damon. I love you. (Smith, 1992:123)

Elena tells Damon that she doesn't regret getting to know Damon. She is very grateful to have met him. When she experiences, good or bad things, Damon is always with her, protecting, supporting, and teaching Elena many things. Elena true love shows when she is say that she loves Damon because Damon fully accepts her as a vampire or a human, he accepts her both ways. Immediately the true love of Damon approaches Elena and the two embraces each other, look at each other full of emotion, and then both kiss passionately.

Commitment

Commitment is a decision taken by someone that he loves another person and will continuously maintain that love (Sternberg, 1986:262). This is the main cognitive component of love. The commitment component itself has two short-term and long-term aspects long. The short term aspect is the decision to love someone. While the long-term decision is to maintain the love relationship. There are several quotations that will be analyze of Damon and Elena expressing their true love through commitment and it can be proves with quotation below:

I'm taking it. I've been a vampire for a long time, Elena. it's been a blast but I would give it up in a second to be your husband, your partner. Father of your children. I will always love you until I take my last breath on this earth (Smith, 1992: 267)

Damon tells Elena that he wants to be human for her. The true love of Damon shows when he decides to follow the love of her life and find his own happy ending. Their commitment shows that Damon want to spend his life with Elena, even though he realizes that he and Elena are not meant to be together. In this case, Damon has a wish as well sincerity to maintain a relationship even though it is full of difficulties and sacrifices. He is willing to look for a drug that can turn them into humans and live together, have children, and grow old like everyone else. He is true love for Elena is so great that he is willing to sacrifice his life for the woman he loves.

I've made some huge mistake in my life. Being with you wasn't one of them. And yes I had Alaric compel away my love for you and yes I did love Stevan once. And yet I found my way back to you. Damon I somehow always find my back to you. It doesn't matter If I have memories or not. It doesn't matter if I'm a vampire or not. (Smith, 1992: 234)

Damon tells Elena that she dies with vampire blood. This means, Elena drinks Damon's blood before she dies and turn into a vampire. This is because the two of them have a very strong bond. People around Elena say that she falls in love with Damon because of blood ties. But Elena realize that she has feelings for Damon when she is a human, and those feelings is pure. She always finds a way to get back to Damon, no matter how hard fate separates them. This is a form of Elena's true love for Damon by always coming back, building their relationship and always staying together.

Damon's mouth twisted into its telltale smirk, and Elena knew she was home. I've had so much fantasy in my life, Elena. Enough for one-hundred lifetimes. I'd give it all up for one life with you. (Smith, 1992: 395)

Destiny intervenes and Elena runs into Damon at the airport. Seeing him makes Elena realize that Damon is who she's meant to be with, and this quotation is the last line of the entire novel. Damon decide to give up immortality to be with Elena that perhaps the biggest sign of Damon's true love. It is proof that his love for Elena is real, and all he cares about living a happy life with her, no matter how long it might be. Elena and Damon end up getting married, and it's even revealed in Legacies that Damon rebuilt the Gilbert house for her, and the two of them has kids and this one of from their true love that makes them forever. Their happy ending is confirmed during a flash forward when they're seen walking hand in hand to the afterlife together. Their commitment from both Elena and Damon who finally get married and have children and walk hand in hand to the afterlife together.

Conclusion

From the analysis of Damon's and Elena's true love, it can be conducted, that the love story is intertwined with several characters in this novel. The writer raises Damon's love story with Elena using Sternberg's love triangle theory, which includes intimacy, passion, and commitment. Damon and Elena on the side of intimacy is very evident with the love that exists between them. Passion means the feeling of always wanting to be together with physical closeness. In this novel, it is seen where Damon and Elena always want to live together and do not want to be separated from each other. Commitment means a person wants to spend the rest of his life with his partner. Damon and Elena, they have a happy ending in the novel.

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