

**CHILD ABUSE IN MEG ELISON'S *FIND LAYLA***

**A THESIS**

**Presented in a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Completing the  
Sarjana Degree in Department of English Literature**



by

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**2023**



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## TABLE OF CONTENT

APPROVAL SHEET I.....	i
APPROVAL SHEET II.....	ii
SURAT PERNYATAAN.....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	vi
ABSTRACT.....	vii
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1    Background of the Study.....	1
1.2    Statement of the Problem.....	3
1.3    Research Objectives.....	3
1.4    Scope and Limitation.....	3
1.5    Significance of the Study.....	3
CHAPTER II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE.....	5
2.1    Previous Studies.....	5
2.2    Theoretical Review.....	6
2.2.1    Definition of Child Abuse.....	6
2.2.2    Forms of Child Abuse.....	7
2.2.3    Causes of Child Abuse.....	9
2.2.4    Impact of Child Abuse.....	10
2.2.5    Objectification on Child Abuse.....	11
CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODS.....	13
3.1    Literary Approach.....	13
3.2    Research Design.....	13
3.3    Research Instrument.....	13
3.4    Data Source.....	14
3.5    Data Collection Procedure.....	14
3.6    Data Analysis Procedure.....	14
CHAPTER IV ANALYSIS.....	15





4.1	Forms of Child Abuse.....	15
4.1.1	Neglect .....	15
4.1.2	Physical Abuse .....	19
4.1.3	Psychological Abuse .....	20
4.1.4	Sexual Abuse .....	22
4.2	Character Objectification of Child Abuse.....	24
4.3	Causes of Child Abuse.....	25
4.4	Impact of Child Abuse.....	28
CHAPTER V CONCLUSION .....		31
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
APPENDIX I BIOGRAPHY		
APPENDIX II SYNOPSIS		
APPENDIX III TABLE OF DATA		

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## ABSTRACT

This thesis discusses child abuse in Meg Elison's *Find Layla*. The purpose of this thesis is to describe the forms, character objectification, causes and effects of child abuse experiences by Layla and Andy. The research method used is descriptive qualitative method. This thesis uses a psychological approach. The psychoanalysis is used to evaluate the characters in the novel. Sue & Chamberline's four domains of child abuse causes are used in this study. Martha Nussabaum's objectification theory is used to analyze in what ways the abuser objectifies the child. Joyce Shannon's theory of violence against children is also used in this study to determine the impact of child abuse in the novel. There are four forms of violence experienced by Layla and Andy: neglect, physical abuse, psychological abuse and sexual abuse. Darlene's objectification of the child abuse is shown by treating her child as an object. It is found that there are two ways that Darlene objectifies her child, namely violability and denial of subjectivity. There are three causes of Darlene's child abuse: divorce, past childhood experiences, and mental illness. The impact of child abuse experienced by Layla and Andy is physical and psychological. The physical impact of child abuse experienced by Layla and Andy is malnutrition. The psychological impact experienced by Layla is anxiety disorder and Andy has post traumatic stress disorder. Andy also experience difficulties in language and speech.

**Keywords:** *abuse, objectification, violence, trauma, disorder*