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FEMALE BONDING IN CECELIA AHERN'S *LOVE, ROSIE*

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ABSTRACT: This study is about bonding that happens among the female characters: Rosie, Stephanie, Mom, Ruby and Katie. This bonding is called female bonding. Female bonding is commonly exposed when they usually share activities and emotions each other. To prove the existence of bonding among female characters, the writer decides to do a study on the novel entitled *Love, Rosie* by Cecelia Ahern. Applying feminist literary criticism and qualitative research method, the writer analyzed three characteristics of female bonding: 1)Friendship 2)Attachment 3)Cooperation. From the analysis, the writer concludes that female bonding happening among the females characters on novel that shows understanding, sharing activities, worries, trust and appreciation. The female bonding can make people more positive and give good impact for each other.

Keywords: bonding, female bonding, friendship, attachment, cooperation

INTRODUCTION

According to Hazar and Campa (2013:2) early bonding experiences from infancy through adolescence. The chapters in this part address the basics of ethological attachment theory, the coevolution of infant–caregiver behavior systems, and the normative developmental transition from parental to peer to partner attachment. Abel (1981:3) female bonding exemplifies a mode of relational self-definition whose increasing prominence is evident in the revival of psychoanalytic interest

in object-relations theory and in the dynamics of transference and countertransference, as well as in the rowth of literary emphasis on theories of influence and intertextuality. Based on the explanation above, the writer is so interested in the bonding between female that are usually called sisterhood. The writer chooses literary work from Cecelia Ahern's *Love, Rosie* to be discussed in this thesis. The novel is about two friends called Rosie and Alex, they actually love each other but for one and another reasons, Alex has to move from Dublin to Boston with his family. Rosie is down because of her very best-buddy leave her from Dublin to Boston. Moreover, something big comes, and it can be changed Rosie's life forever. She gets pregnant with thier friend. She gets through ups and downs in her life. Fortunately, she has a very supportive big sister, Stephani, who always listens and supports her in every moment that happens to her life. A mother, who is always there for her and a friend that comes into her life and makes big change for her, Ruby. She understands Rosie really well eventhough she is new to Rosie's life. And her daughter, Katie who always supports and undertands her. From their relationship, the female characters establish female bonding.

This thesis focuses on female bonding that are shown on Cecelia Ahern's *Love, Rosie*. The study will focus on bonding Ruby, Stephani, Mom, Katie and Rosie from their interaction. The writer uses extrinsic approach, an element of literature was about the things that cannot really be found inside the story itself. It is not the material but the fact and information that supports surround the story.

This work points out about liberal feminism. According to Lorber (1997) liberal feminism claims that gender differences are not based in biology, and therefore that women and men are not all that different -- their common humanity supersedes their procreative differentiation. If women and men are not different, then they should not be treated differently under the law. Women should have the same rights as men

and the same educational and work opportunities.

According to Horst (2012), female bonding is the formation of a close personal relationship between women. Female bonding is a term that is used in ethology, social science, and in general usage to describe patterns of friendship, attachment, and cooperation in women; or in the case of ethology, associations between females of various species. The exact meaning of the term differs across contexts. In ethology, a species is said to have female bonding if the female regularly form coalitions in which they mutually support each other, especially if such coalitions are used to attack other groups or individuals.

Olieviera (2011:16) writes sisterhood can have many positive aspects in the lives of the characters, most of these bonds do not outlast the contradictions that women experience during and after slavery. To endure the hardships, the women characters are forced to make unconventional compromises and to resort to different actions. Even though the change in the ethics of care does not necessarily represent lack of solidarity among the characters. Solidarity is nevertheless present among the women characters, from the same or different races and ethnicities, and that the ruptures of their bonding and controversial actions are a result of the alteration of ethics of care.

On Abel (1981:2) writes while feminist social scientists have culled from letters and journals evidence of the intensity and power of female friendships, especially in nineteenth-century America, feminist literary critics have focused more exclusively on the mother-daughter bond.

While Levine's article (2011) writes the intimate nature of the relationship between a mother and daughter is sometimes confusing. If close, the relationship can simulate friendship through the familiar characteristics of empathy, listening, loyalty, and caring. However, the mother/daughter relationship has unique characteristics that distinguish it from a best friendship. These characteristics include a mother's role as primary emotional caretaker, a lack of reciprocity, and a hierarchy of responsibility. This hierarchy,

combined with unconditional love, precludes mothers and daughters from being best friends. This generation of mothers and adult daughters has a lot in common which increases the likelihood of shared companionship. Mothers and daughters have always shared the common experience of being homemakers, responsible for maintaining and passing on family values, traditions, and rituals. Today contemporary mothers and daughters also share the experience of the workforce, technology and lack of a generation gap, which may bring them even closer together.

According to Greiner (1993) female bonding is the formation of a close personal relationship and the patterns of friendship, attachment, and cooperation in females. Within the context of human relationships the definition and display of female bonding can be dependent on multiple factors such as age, sexual orientation, culture, race and marital status. For example, some studies have shown that there is relatively strong female bonding evidence which is shared among single women. It is evident that this particular cohort of women sees each other as lifelong confidants due to the absence of a lifelong commitment to a spouse. Along with this, the lack of commitment allows women to develop and maintain the strong ties between other single female friends. From the passage above, it can conclude that female bonding can be divined into 3 characteristics : friendship, attachment and coorporation.

On their journal Parker and Vries (1993) writes ninety-five women and 95 men undergraduates rated each of their closest friends, and rated themselves with each of those friends on a *Relationship Grid* evaluating both `structural' dimensions (i.e., age, sex, duration of friendship and frequency of contact) and `affective' dimensions (i.e. self-disclosure, appreciation, assistance, empathic, understanding, deepening others' self-awareness, shared activity, authenticity, trust, control, responsibility, connectedness, empowerment of others and satisfaction). Results indicated similarity in the rankings of the

importance of those dimensions in the friendships of men and women, and that same-sex friendships were more common and of longer duration than cross-sex friendships.

MacLeod (2009) in his article entitled *Attachment Theory,* attachment is a deep and enduring emotional bond that connects one person to another across time and space (Ainsworth, 1973; Bowlby, 1969). Attachment does not have to be reciprocal. Bearry, Seager, Brown (2015:64) an attachment is an emotional bond which forms in humans and other mammalian species from birth, usually between infants and adults, and develops through interaction with a primary caregiver. Ainsworth, Blehar, Waters, & Wall (1978) have identified three primary attachment styles: *anxious/ambivalent,* (characteristic of infants who intermix attachment behaviors with overt expressions of protest and anger toward the primary caregiver when distressed), *avoidant* (characteristic of infants who avoid the caregiver and exhibit signs of detachment when distressed), and *secure* (characteristic of infants who successfully use the caregiver as a secure base when distressed). People who possess a secure attachment style tend to develop mental models of themselves as being friendly, good-natured, and likable and of significant others as being generally well intentioned, reliable, and trustworthy.

In Vugt, Cremer and Jassen (2007), they write evolutionary scientists argue that human cooperation is the product of a long history of competition among rival groups. There are various reasons to believe that this logic applies particularly to men. In three experiments, using a step-level public-goods task, we found that men contributed more to their group if their group was competing with other groups than if there was no intergroup competition. Female cooperation was relatively unaffected by intergroup competition.

According to Balliet, Li, Macfarlan and Vugt (2011), there is some evidence that women, relative to men, are kinder (Conway, Pizzamiglio, & Mount, 1996; Eagly & Steffen, 1984), more agreeable

(Feingold, 1994), more supportive of their friends (Oswald, Clark, & Kelly, 2004), and more cooperative in same-sex work groups (Chatman & O'Reilly, 2004). In contrast, men provide more help to strangers in need (Eagly & Crowley, 1986), have a stronger preference for coordinated social play as children (Benenson, Apostoleris, & Parnass, 1997), and tend to cooperate more in larger groups (Gabriel & Gardner, 1999).

RESEARCH METHOD

This work uses qualitative research. According to Saven-Baden and Major (2010:35) on their book *New Approaches to Qualitative Research,* qualitaive research is often framed as an inductive exploration of a problem or issue rather than a deductive testing of a hypothesis, as in much quantitative research. It mean that the researcher has to undersand the topic that they will analyze well.

The data source takes from Cecelia Ahern's novel *Love, Rosie* published in 2004. The writer only analyzed the characteristic's bonding of female that is shown from interaction on the novel.

RESEARCH RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In Cecelia Ahern's *Love, Rosie,* Rosie is an independent woman and mother. She is pregnant without figure of husband by her side because a man who make her pregnant run away from her.

Rosie tells Stephani about her daughter, Katie. She is afraid of losing Katie. Her fear of losing her daughter is deeper than her fear of losing her own life. Although Katie will make Rosie dissapointed someday, she is still proud as a mother to have Katie in her life. "The men in my life may have let me down but the little girl in my life makes up for it every single day" (Ahern, 2004:160) though, Rosie has a really bad day, then she is still a bless mother to have daughter like Katie. Even all of the men in Rosie's life make her down. She is grateful to have Katie in her life because she can light Rosie's life up.

Stephanie tries to calm Rosie, she does not want her sister broken

just because one evil man who comes to Rosie's life. Stephani believes that Rosie is a strong woman she has ever known. She makes Rosie sure that Rosie can through all the matters that comes to her life. "I can't tell you whether to stay with Greg or not, only you can make that decision" (Ahern, 2004:153) also, Stephani believes all the decision Rosie takes to her life. "But if that is making you miserable then leave and find something else that brings you the happiness you deserve to feel" (Ahern, 2004:153) she is sure that Rosie is an amazing woman who can leave the miserable things in her life to find somethings amazing ahead.

Like Rosie's Mom, she is worried to Rosie about her condition after she gets home from visit to Alex in Boston. Mom asks Stephani to help her to quetion Rosie, because Rosie loves to share everything with Stephani. If there is something wrong with Rosie, she gets worried with her. "I know she feels like she has missed out on huge opportunities, I just wish she could see the positive side to what she has now" (Ahern, 2004:52) She is worried about Rosie, she thinks that she may be lost 'something big' after she gets pregnant, and lost her scholarship in Boston. Eventhough she seems to accept the situation, Mom is worried. Mom feels connectedness with Rosie, just with see in her word that she is worried to her.

Ruby tries to get Rosie conscious not to waiting Alex anymore, and move on from him like gets new life "I don't know what you're talking about! I am *not* waiting for Alex!" (Ahern, 2004: 69). Ruby understands why Rosie can not move on from Alex, because he such a wonderfull 'friend'. He always treats Rosie right and always have sweet talks to Rosie," I'm sure he's a fabulous friend and I'm sure he always says sweet and wonderful things to you" (Ahern, 2004:69). Ruby is worried with Rosie, "So stop waiting and move on. Live your life" (Ahern, 2004:69) because when Rosie 'meet' with someone, she still thinks of Alex and compare them with Alex. She just want to Rosie not to think much of Alex and enjoy her life.

Ruby is worried about Rosie's environment of work. Rosie's boss is such a bad man. He tries to take a peep to Rosie's legs while she is working at her desk, and that actually is distrubing Rosie so much. "Rosie you really need to get out of that office. It's not healthy "(Ahern, 2004:87) Ruby give her advice to go out from that paper-clip factory as soon as possible. "I know, I'm working on it but I can't quit until I get another job and that's proving to be rather difficult," (Ahern, 2004:87) but, Rosie can not take that advice, she needs that job, she will not be jobless woman while her daughter need money from her.

Rosie is such a best mother. "Well the dentist can wait. I'll make another appointment for you," (Ahern, 2004:307) She makes up another orthodontist's appointment for Katie in order to she can go with Toby and Monica in the football match. "This is a very important football match you know, I wouldn't want you to miss it just because of a silly little thing like getting your teeth fixed," (Ahern, 2004:307) because Rosie knows that Katie does not like Monica, and Katie will interupt Toby's date with Monica. She is really understand Katie well.

Rosie shares her thought about Ms. Casey, her teacher who also teachs Katie that she is hated before, to Katie. Time by time her feeling is changed, Ms. Casey is kind of her bestfriend. "Every day conversation becomes a little longer, a little friendlier, a little less about work and a little more about life", (Ahern, 2004:308) they form relation called bond. Moreover, everyday they share story more, care and talk about their life. "But each day we talk more and more and earlier today I was surprised to hear her tell me that you are quite the intellect when you're not being distracted by that boyfriend of yours," (Ahern, 2004:308) .Ms. Casey tells about how clever Katie is before, but fortunetly she is distracted by her boyfriend.

Rosie invesigates Katie about her relationship with John. "Did you have sex with him?"(Ahern, 2004:322), she want to know how far Katie's relationships goes, Rosie does not want her fault repeat to Katie. "I don't know, well you see 14-year-old

pregnant girls on TV who are on drugs these days," (Ahern, 2004:322) Rosie also asks Katie about her social life that is she use drug and alchohol or not. Rosie wants to protect her preciouse daugther from sex before marriage. "Well that's definitely not me! " (Ahern, 2004:323) but, at the end Katie does not do 'kid stuffs at her age' she is such a good girl, eventually.

CONCLUSION

From the discussion on the previous chapters, the writer concludes that there are female bonding happen when they share actitivies together and split same emotional feelings. The female bonding is a strong relationship among female's friends and family. From liberal feminism point of view female and man are not that difference means female can survive in society without compares with man. In Rosie's case, she can survive without man's role, like husband in her life. She can make her own money and fullfil Katie's need.

Moreover, feemale bonding can be achieved through friendship which is understanding each other, attachment that supports other friends, and cooperation with trust for each other. Moreover characteristics of female bonding that will be exposed on Cecelia Ahern's *Love, Rosie* are between Rosie, Ruby, Stephanie, Mom and Katie.

Female bonding between Rosie and Ruby are understand, support and trust on each others' life. When one of them gets problem, Ruby will give Rosie advice and try to understand what Rosie choose to make her the problem is solved. Ruby also supports every decision that Rosie takes on her life, when Rosie chooses to divorce with Greg, since she is also divorced, Ruby understands Rosie's position, and support for Rosie's best on her life. Ruby is trust Rosie with her decision moving to Cork and open a B&B in there, Ruby believes her that Rosie will get her happiness in there.

The next one is female bonding between Stephanie and Rosie. Stephanie is Rosie' sister so they trust each other, appreciates and shares activities for each other. When Rosie passes her senior school and will become a college student, she congratulates and proud of Rosie

because she can pass on her school. Rosie also shares about life to her sister, Stephanie. When she does not want to loose Katie from her life even before she hates to be a pregnant girl but Rosie is bless to have Katie in her life, as a sister Stephanie always supports her. Stepahnie trusts every decision that Rosie make even when she want to divorce with Greg, she believes to Rosie, because it is Rosie's best choice about her marriage with Greg.

The female bonding between Rosie and Mom are when they share about their life and they are worry for each others. Rosie shares to her mom that she is a proud mother, she is bless to have Katie in her life. She is happy to be a mother like her mom though at the beginning she wants Katie to be adopted. Then when Rosie loses contact with her, Mom is worried with Rosie after she visits Alex in Boston. Mom does not want Rosie disappointed because of her missed opportunity to live and study in Boston like Alex after Rosie is visited him. She just wants her daughter, Rosie to be a happy mankind.

The last is female bonding between Rosie and Katie. Like, Rosie always supports her daughter's choice to go to Ibiza with her biological daddy. Katie wants to learn to be a DJ on her daddy's relative. She really understands Katie well and vice versa. Like when Katie worries about her mother and grandma, after her grandpa is passed away. She feels that they are little bit change, and she plans to go home to Dublin and sets up plan to stay for a while and make them cheer up again.

The female bonding between Rosie, Ruby, Stephanie, Mom and Katie are the fact that they really understand for each other, they are like to share their activity to know each other, when one of them gets problem, they absolutely worry each other, they trust the choice which one of them decides and they are never ashamed to appreciate one for another if they get something good happen. Then after ups and downs their bond is so strong for each other. Female bonding is a good relationship between women, it can make good impact for each other life.

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