

**YOUNG FEMALE'S VOICE AND AGENCY IN NOVEL ON THE
JELICOE ROAD (2006) BY MELINA MARCHETTA**

THESIS

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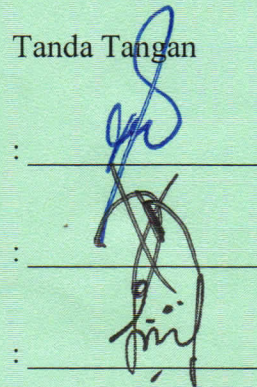
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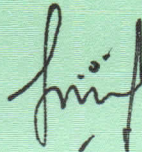


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ABSTRACT

Gusti, Dilla Apri. (2021). Young Female's Voice and Agency in Novel *On The Jellicoe Road* By Melina Marchetta (2006). Thesis. Padang: English Language and Literature Department. Faculty of Languages and Arts. Universitas Negeri Padang.

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This study examined how far novel *On The Jellicoe Road* (2006) by Melina Marchetta reflected the issues of female voice and agency. Female voice and agency refer to the character who was doing effort to get through her bad past and become a great person in the future. The young female character had been through difficult time that her age might be cannot do it. This analysis is related to agency theory proposed by Naila Kabeer (1999) and feminist theory proposed by Abrams Kathryn (1999). The used of theory was based on the interpretation in the text and context of the novel. The data was collected from the quotation in the novel. The data collection were in the form of sentences and paragraphs. This research was descriptive and content analysis study. In this research, female voice and agency examined the novel *On The Jellicoe Road*. The result of the study was the character have the ability to utilize her words, longing, and wishes of heart to improve her life. The main character choose to not let people around her take control of her life. The voice also showed that the character choose to deal with her childhood trauma. The main character showed that she can grown up as strong, independent and brave. The main character has the ability to make her own goal and decision. The main character took control of her own life and handle everything. She came out as stunning and amazing person of herself. In conclusion, the main character showed the world that female can also decide what she thought best for her and her life. The main character had her own goal, voice, motivation and decide what best for her life.

Keywords: *Voice, Agency, Young Female, Feminist*

ABSTRAK

Gusti, Dilla Apri. (2021). *Young Female's Voice and Agency in Novel On The Jellicoe Road* By Melina Marchetta (2006). Skripsi. Padang: Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang.

Pembimbing. Leni Marlina, S.S, M.A

Penelitian ini mengkaji sejauh mana novel *On The Jellicoe Road* (2006) karya Melina Marchetta mencerminkan isu suara dan agensi perempuan. Suara dan agensi wanita mengacu pada karakter yang sedang melakukan upaya untuk melewati masa lalunya yang buruk dan menjadi orang yang hebat di masa depan. Karakter wanita muda itu telah melalui masa-masa sulit yang mungkin tidak bisa dilakukan oleh perempuan muda atau remaja sebaya dirinya. Analisis ini berkaitan dengan teori agensi yang dikemukakan oleh Naila Kabeer (1999) dan teori feminis yang dikemukakan oleh Abrams Kathryn (1999). Penggunaan teori didasarkan pada interpretasi dalam teks dan konteks novel. Data dikumpulkan dari kutipan dalam novel. Pengumpulan data berupa kalimat dan paragraf. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian deskriptif dan analisis isi. Dalam penelitian ini, suara dan agensi wanita meneliti *novel On The Jellicoe Road*. Hasil penelitian ini adalah karakter memiliki kemampuan untuk memanfaatkan kata-kata, keberanian, dan keinginan hatinya untuk memperbaiki hidupnya. Karakter utama memilih untuk tidak membiarkan orang-orang di sekitarnya mengambil kendali atas hidupnya. *Voice* itu juga menunjukkan bahwa karakter tersebut memilih untuk mengatasi trauma masa kecilnya. Karakter utama menunjukkan bahwa dia bisa tumbuh menjadi kuat, mandiri dan berani. Karakter utama memiliki kemampuan untuk membuat tujuan dan keputusannya sendiri. Karakter utama mengambil kendali atas hidupnya sendiri dan menangani semuanya. Dia keluar sebagai orang yang menakjubkan dan menakjubkan dari dirinya sendiri. Sebagai kesimpulan, karakter utama menunjukkan kepada dunia bahwa perempuan juga dapat memutuskan apa yang menurutnya terbaik untuk dirinya dan hidupnya. Karakter utama memiliki tujuan sendiri, suara, motivasi dan memutuskan apa yang terbaik untuk hidupnya.

Kata kunci: *Suara, Agensi, Perempuan Muda, Feminis*

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Synopsis

Novel “On the Jellicoe Road” (2006) by Melina Marchetta reflects about a young teenage woman named Taylor Markham who is an independent and strong woman. She can live her life by herself and make her own goals. In this analysis, a young female’s agency refers to the character that is making an effort to get through her bad past and become a great person in the future. In the young age, the character had been through a difficult time that her age might be able to do it. Taylor Markham's is the protagonist of the character who is a brave, strong and independent woman who controls her life. She is strongly aware of her own life and strong teenage woman. She had a hard knock life. At that time, she was eleven years old. At this young age, she lived without parents ' figure. It makes her a great woman who grew up as an independent, strong and brave person. Even though she grew up without a parent figure, she doesn't easily give up in her life or make something that she can regret in the future. Her mother abandoned her at a gas station on the Jellicoe Road. Since then, the protagonist has been haunted by memories of her mother, the mystery of who her father was, and questions of her own identity. She makes herself stronger to prove something that she can. The proof can be seen in her character, for example, as an independent person, strong and brave.

In terms of being independent, the protagonist has grown up as the optimistic person. The character has some major responsibilities on her hands. She is open-minded. She doesn't want to judge her mother easily. She wonders where she

belongs. At that time, she was eleven and also didn't understand the reason even her mom wanted to tell her. She keeps thinking positively. She believes what her mother did for a reason. She is also not vindictive. She has positive vibes that make her think in a good way. Being independent can affect her social life. It is because no one can underestimate her. She is an independent woman, she can do anything for herself. So that, people will also see and appreciate her as well-human being. It can be seen when her father died and she was also abandoned by her mother. She can be independent. It makes her friend do it too. Thus, she was chosen as the leader of one of the Houses on the school's campus and has also been chosen to lead the school in their annual territory war with Jellicoe's Townies and the military school Cadets who come to town once a year for training in the wilderness.

In term of brave and strong person, Taylor Markham learns how to accept the truth. For one thing, she stops seeing her role as a House leader as an annoyance. She learns to live without parents figure. She knows that life is difficult but she is brave and strong enough to get through these difficulties. While she might cringe at the beginning of the story when Hannah tells her that some "fragile" kids are being transferred to her House, her heart eventually melts toward the group, especially the somewhat exasperating Jessa McKenzie. The protagonist starts to understand that her father was dead and the body never found. Then, she accepts the reason why her mother left her. Finally, she starts to accept her new family and accepts the reality. The protagonist learns that life must goes on and nobody can stop it. She can be

stronger than she ever expected if she could not get through the hard time in her life. Being strong and brave will make her respected and no one can hurt her. Even a little things cannot affect her. It makes her as women who has a commitment for herself. At first, she considered as “fragile kid”. however, she accepts reality until no one can say that she is fragile. On the contrary, she becomes a strong and brave person. So, Hannah can't underestimated her as fragile kid anymore.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Within the last few decades, women suffer high rates of depression, anxiety and also oppression in their social life. Guided by the belief that every life has equal value. According to profeta (2017) Women are under-represented in decision-making positions worldwide. However, gender equality and diversity are recognized to have beneficial effects on organizations, institutions and the overall economy. In this thesis, young female agency is one of the most issues that can be found in some literature studies. Female agency discusses how the role of females can affect their life individually and socially. It relates to their social, individual and group life.

Young Female voice and agency is one of the important studies to discuss because In many parts of the world, girls and young women continue to carry the double burden of being both young and female. They often face negative cultural attitudes and practices and gender-biased social and political processes that limit their opportunities and undermine their self-esteem. *The World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY)* recognizes this issues and suggests that a gender sensitive approach be taken in the design and implementation of social and economic programmed and policies to reduce gender discrimination and put boys, girls, women and men on equal footing. Nowadays, the media shows the public that females suffer high rates of depression, anxiety, and eating disorders. In this novel, the protagonist got through

the hard time in life and at the end she struggles for a better life. Thus, it shows that the protagonist in the novel indicates agency.

Gender gaps that impair women's ability to make choices for themselves exist in many areas of life, women's agency can be exercised in countless ways. Given this, the researcher adopted a broad definition of agency in the literature review that included both direct and indirect indicators, building on previous work by *Kabeer (1999)*, *Trites (1997)*, *Bradford (2008)*, *Abrams (1999)*, *Emirbayer and Mische (1998)*.

This novel shows that women can also be independent, strong and brave. This literature review gives a meaningful and powerful different perspective about women in real life. Through this novel the researcher will show that women can also be strong, independent and brave. Women also have the ability to make their own goals, decisions and act upon the goals and decisions she made.

In this thesis, Young Female's Agency in the novel focuses on the character, Taylor Markham who is the protagonist character and as a strong woman in this novel. The key concept of this thesis analysis is agency. According to Meriam Webster Dictionary (2021) Agency is a person or thing through which power is exerted or an end is achieved. Agency is the ability for a person, or agent, to act for herself or himself. A person who is not allowed to act for her/himself is lacking in agency, or is said to have been denied agency. It means that the person who has the

power of their own and has a goal to achieve for their own. The Protagonist manages her life in her own way and is full of optimist thought. In my point of view, agency means the freedom that individuals have to make a goal, choice and speak for themselves. Agency also has the capacity to live or act in a defined world. In the literary sense, people can interpret the meaning in different ways. For example, in this analysis, the researcher is going to analyze the character's ability to make choices, act freely and can control their lives within the novel based on agency perspective to reflect the issues of young female agency. Through the novel, the character will see the character have the indicator to be called “having an agency” which mean has the ability to affirm her voice and ideas about her own life.

The novel “*On the Jellicoe Road*” (2006) by Melina Marchetta reflects about a young teenage woman named Taylor Markham who is an independent and strong woman. In the novel, the protagonist experiences the bad past in her young age. In the young age, the character had been through a difficult time that her age might be able to do it. She had a hard knock life. At that time, she was eleven years old. At this young age, she lived without parents ' figure. It makes her a great woman who grew up as an independent, strong and brave person. When she was eleven, she saw her father died on the Jellicoe Road and she was also abandoned by her mother. Her mother abandoned her at a gas station on the Jellicoe Road. Since then, the protagonist has been haunted by memories of her mother, the mystery of who her father was, and questions of her own identity. She makes herself stronger to prove

something that she can. She can live her life by herself and make her own goals. In this analysis, a young female's agency refers to the character that is making an effort to get through her bad past and become a great person in the future.

The protagonist has the hard responsibilities in her young age. She has been chosen to lead the school's faction in a secret territory war. This school has spanned a generation between the school boarders, the Townies, and the Cadets. The responsibilities that make the way she thinks, acts and behaves as a mature person. She matures as a young adult. This situation describes the feeling on the crux of growing up and watching all that was familiar with the world shift into something new. She used to be independent. Because she grows up as a child who hasn't parents figure in her life. On the Jellicoe Road represents all her struggles in life. It means that the ups and downs that she gets through in her life is at the Jellicoe Road. Jellicoe Road is one of Road names in the city.

Related to the thesis and mentioned definition about agency, young female's agency is as the active role of the female in a particular genre or endeavor. Traditionally, women have had little agency in most cultures. This definition is powerful when certain keywords are thoroughly understood. In our everyday world existence within humanity, we are conditioned and motivated to live by objective materialism. People need to get ahead in life, create a family and successful career, and support our government and society's rules and regulations while living, getting older and dying.

Finding the way out of the problems is also the biggest challenge that all people cannot do. It makes sense that optimistic people are ready and willing to confront many difficulties. In the agency, people who are optimistic can bring the positive vibes for themselves or for people around them. Being optimistic is one of the positive characteristics that women should have. When she wants to be brave, strong and independent, she has to be optimistic. In case, if she has to decide what is best for her and make her own goals, she has to have an optimistic mindset.

This analysis is analyzed based on the concept of agency and women agency in Feminist perspective. The issue is going to be discussed in this Novel about someone who gets through a hard time in life, but she becomes an independent, brave and strong person instead. The fictional device which is used in this analysis is character. The character is doing her best to keep going in her life. She is independent, strong and brave. Even though she was abandoned by her mother. It is related to the definition of agency that people who can decide what is best for their life and have goals, it is the ability that young females can have as agency. At that time, she was eleven. The character also has the ability to identify goals or make choices and then act for her. It is linked to the definition of agency.

In fact, the media constantly reminds us that girls live in a culture in which they are raped, beaten, and abused, (or under the threat of all three) on a daily basis. Female/women suffer high rates of depression, anxiety, and eating disorders. What the media does not frequently show us is that females persevere. Females shine bright

even though they are faced with hardships. They triumph. This analysis continues to inspire and remind people of what empowered females look like and how they courageously engage with the world.

One of the reasons young female's agency is chosen as a topic to be discussed in this thesis is because the researcher is interested in discussing the agency that will be related to the life and personality of the individual. It will prove that women can also be strong, independent and can make their own decisions for their life. Society thinks that women cannot make her own goals, cannot decide what is best for her life, cannot be a leader. Thus, this female's agency brings a different view of women. Also, The researcher wants to know a lot of stuff about the reasons people can endure this life full of obstacles. Many people are faced with such formidable obstacles, there are those who are able to survive and some who decide to spend their whole lives with just having fun, become alcoholic, take drugs, and some people also decide to commit suicide. This novel explains how the character in this novel makes her own goal and be a leader as a young female even though she has to get through a tough life. She is an independent, brave and strong person that can lead her into a better life.

There is some research that is related to young female's agency. First, the research by Weissman and Swanstrom (2016) within young adult fantasy novels. Second, the research by June Pulliam (2010) in the article *Monstrous Bodies: Feminity and Agency in Young Adult horror fiction*. Third, the research by Jockers and Kirilloff (2016) in *Understanding Gender and Character Agency in the 19th*

Century novel. Forth, Megan Sarah McDonough (2017) in an article entitled From Damsel in Distress to Active Agent: Female Agency in Children's and Young Adult Fiction.

1.2 On the Jellicoe Road (2006)

This novel is young adult adventure fiction. *On the Jellicoe Road* transports the reader to a world caught between the dreams of childhood and the horrors of reality, a boarding school where the students wage war with the Cadets and Townies, and the teachers never stick around long enough to stop them. In her last year at the school, Taylor Markham is given responsibility she never wanted, and must decide where her priorities lie when the truth about her identity and the people she thought she knew start to unravel.

The novel switches between two timelines, which are beautifully balanced. Taylor's story is the main focus, and the reader is guided into the second timeline in a way that feels organic and doesn't detract from either side. The two stories overlap and weave through each other without blatantly pointing out the connections, instead allowing the reader to come to their own conclusions. The payoff for the links between the timelines is incredibly rewarding, something that was carefully planned by Marchetta.

According to New York Public Library (2009) *On the Jellicoe Road* is a young adult novel by Australian novelist Melina Marchetta. It was first published in

Australia in 2006 by Penguin Australia under the title *On the Jellicoe Road*, where it was awarded the 2008 West Australia Young Readers Book (WAYRB) Award for Older Readers. It was later published in the United States in 2008 under the abbreviated title *Jellicoe Road* by HarperTeen and went on to win the 2009 Michael L. Printz Award from the American Library Association. According to the American Library Association (2009) mentioned that novel *On The jellicoe Road* won Michael L. Printz Award in 2009. The novel was written by Melina Marchetta which was published by HarperTeen, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

1.3 Problem of Study

This study focuses on the issues of young female agency in the novel *on the Jellicoe road* of the character. There are two research questions that give contributions to reflect the issues. They are:

1. How far the character in novel *On the Jellicoe road* (2006) reflects young female's agency?
2. To what extent do character, setting and conflict sustain the meaning of young female's agency in novel *On the Jellicoe Road* (2006) ?
3. How does the character show her effort to reflect a young female's voice and agency in the novel *On the Jellicoe Road* (2006)?

1.4 Purpose of Study

This study aims to seek how far the character is able to reflect the issue of young female agency in the novel *On the Jellicoe Road*. This study is going to investigate to what extent the character, setting and conflict in the novel contribute to reflecting the issue about the character of young female agency.