

**PTSD (POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER)
IN LOUISE ERDRICH'S *THE ROUND HOUSE***

PAPER

*Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement to Obtain
the Strata One (S1) Degree*



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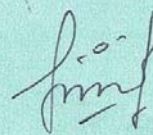
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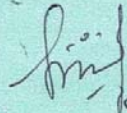
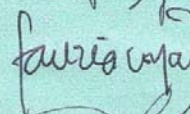

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ABSTRAK

Makalah ini merupakan analisa dari novel *The Round House* (2012) yang ditulis oleh Louise Erdrich, seorang penulis dari suku Indian. Topik yang dibahas adalah PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) yang diderita oleh korban pemerkosaan yang dialami oleh seorang perempuan *Native American* yang dilihat dari sudut pandang narator (anak remaja dari sang korban). Permasalahan yang dibahas adalah gejala-gejala PTSD yang dialami oleh seorang tokoh di dalam novel *The Round House* (2012). Gejala-gejala itu dikelompokkan menjadi tiga kelompok yaitu *Re-experiencing*, *avoidance*, dan *hyperarousal* berdasarkan referensi dari Bisson (2007) dan referensi dari the U.S Institute Mental Health 2015. Analisis paper ini menggunakan tiga *fictional-devices* yaitu setting, karakter, dan plot (konflik). Hasil analisis novel ini menunjukkan bahwa seorang perempuan *Native American* yang menjadi korban pemerkosaan dari laki-laki kulit putih mengalami PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) yang didominasi oleh gejala penghindaran (*avoidance*).

Kata Kunci: PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), korban pemerkosaan.

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The Writer

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

A novel entitled *The Round House* (2012) is one of Louise Erdrich's novels. Louise Erdrich is an American writer. Her novel, *The Round House*, won National Book award in 2012 in fiction. In the novel, at least there are three topics interesting to be analyzed. First topic is living condition in a Native American reservation, North Dakota. The novel displays injustice toward Native Americans and poverty. The second topic is teenager lives. The novel depicts juvenile delinquency of teenage characters. The third topic is psychological impact of sexual assault or rape. Being raped is a traumatic event for a woman. This event causes psychological impact such as PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). At the first time, PTSD was used for war veterans. However, today this disorder is used for any traumatic event. PTSD is suffered by someone if he/she is experiencing or witnessing any traumatic event such as war, disaster, murder, or rape.

People with PTSD will show symptoms. According to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the symptoms are grouped into three symptoms. They are re-experiencing symptoms, avoiding symptoms, and hyperarousal symptoms. First is re-experiencing symptoms means thoughts of any traumatic event someone experienced could come back. For example, a victim of car accident will trigger the event when hearing or seeing news about car accident. Another example is a victim of sexual

assault will be remembered the assault when having shocked by a man, even if the man is her husband. The second is avoiding symptoms means people with PTSD will tend to avoid anything that reminds them to traumatic events. Furthermore, they also isolate themselves from people, they become numb. In addition, they have no interest in their enjoyable past activities. The third group of symptoms is hyperarousal symptoms. After a traumatic event, angry and stress rate of a person will be increased. The person will have difficulties in doing daily activities.

1.1.1. A Brief of Louise Erdrich

Louise Erdrich was born in Little Falls, Minnesota on July 6 1954. She grew up in Wahpeton, North Dakota. Her fictions are influenced by her American Indian heritage and her experiences. She is one of few American Indian writers who are widely read. She has won several awards; the National Book Critics Circle Award for Best Fiction for *Love Medicine*, the Pushcart Prize in Poetry, the O. Henry Prize for short fiction, the Western Literary Association Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship (Center for Great Plains Studies, University of Nebraska Lincoln, 2015).

Edrich's latest novel *The Round House*, won the 2012 National Book Award (National Book Foundation). The novel explores reservation living condition. It argues confused jurisdiction toward American Indians which results injustice. It also explores poverty that experienced by these people. It also depicts psychological impact of sexual assault.

1.1.2. *The Round House*

The novel *The Round House* (2012) written by Louise Erdrich reflects PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) of sexual assault victim. This disorder is suffered by Geraldine. She is a mother of a 13-year boy. Her husband is a tribal judge in an Indian reservation. She is a victim of sexual assault done by a white man. The novel depicts symptoms of PTSD. They are re-experiencing, avoidance, and hyperarousal symptoms.

The first is re-experiencing symptoms. These symptoms involve flashback of traumatic event, a person will remember a traumatic event she experienced if there is any reminder, and frightening thoughts. Geraldine remembers to the sexual assault when her husband comes surprisingly. The woman shows frightening thoughts when her husband accidentally mentioning a woman and her child that she wanted to help from a man that raped her. She also shows frightening thoughts when her son asks her about the file related to the traumatic event.

The second is avoidance symptoms. These symptoms involve feeling emotionally numb, losing interest in activities that were enjoyable in the past, and having trouble remembering the dangerous events. Feeling emotionally numb is shown by isolation from people. She isolates herself from her son. She isolates herself from her husband. She does not want to interact with government agencies. She loses interest in her past activities. She cannot remember exact place of the assault.

The third symptoms are hyperarousal symptoms. These symptoms involve having difficulty sleeping and feeling tense. Geraldine has sleeping problem. She has difficulty to concentrate. She has bad-tempered.

1.2 Problem of the Study

The study is going to reveal the issue, PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) in Erdrich's *The Round House* (2012). Therefore, the research questions are as follow:

1. How far does Louise Erdrich's novel *The Round House* reflect PTSD

(Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder)?

2. To what extend do the fictional devices; characters, settings, and plot (conflicts) contribute in revealing PTSD?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to reveal the issue of PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder), in Erdrich's *The Round House* (2012). This study also figures out to what extend fictional devices; characters, setting, and plot (conflict) in exploring the issue.

1.4 Previous Studies

The analysis of the Louise Erdrich's novel *The Round House* which focuses on the topic PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) has not been found yet. However, there are two studies which give contribution in writing this analysis.

First study is *Post-traumatic stress disorder* (2007) by Jonathan I. Bisson. In his journal, Bisson explains factors that have been associated with development of this disorder. The factors are the severity of the trauma, lack of social support, and peri-traumatic dissociation. He also mentions characteristic symptoms of PTSD adapted from DSM IV; re-experiencing phenomena, avoidance and numbing, and increase arousal. In addition, he states that Rothbaum and Foa found that more than 90% woman sexual assault victims fulfill the symptoms of PTSD within a week of the assault and 40% at 6 months. It shows that sexual assault victims have high rate to suffer PTSD.

Second study is *A Psychoanalytic Attitude to The Great Gatsby* (2013) by A Mojtaba Gholipur and B. Mina Sanahmadi. In this study, they interpret F. Scott Fitzgerald's story, *The Great Gatsby*. They interpret the story uses psychoanalysis. The analysis is intended to understand Gatsby's mental function, and its role in social behavior and individual. It is also intended to understand Gatsby's repression that drives him to achieve his goals.

1.5 Theoretical Framework

Analysis of the novel, *The Round House*, deals with psychoanalytic criticism. This criticism uses some psychoanalysis techniques to interpret meaning in the novel *The Round House*. Sigmund Freud is considered as psychoanalysis's father. Freud's major idea that influences this analysis is notion of unconscious. Unconscious is “the part of the mind beyond consciousness which nevertheless has a strong influence

upon their actions” (Barry, 2002:97). For Freud, humans' actions are mostly influenced by our unconscious. Furthermore, the unconscious does not only influences a person, it may motivate, even drive him or her to face the life. As explained by (Tyson, 2006:12) that “The notion that human beings are motivated, even driven, by desires, fears, needs, and conflicts of which they are unaware—that is, unconscious”. Therefore, sometimes a person does something that he/she does not consider. For instance, a person who once got car accident which makes him traumatized, he will do something strange or the event will be triggered when hearing a crash on the street.

In addition, the literary analysis in this paper also deals with the concept of PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). PTSD is a disorder that suffered by a person who involves in any traumatic event. According to National Institute of Mental Health, a component of the U.S Department of Health and Human Services, the symptoms are classified into three groups.

First is re-experiencing symptoms include flashback, bad dreams, and frightening thoughts. A person with these symptoms will trigger his/her feeling of the traumatic event. For instance, a victim of a sexual assault will remember of the event when seeing or hearing news about rape.

Second is avoidance symptoms. These symptoms include staying away from places, events, or objects that are reminders of the experience, feeling emotionally numb, feeling guilt depression, or worry, losing interest in activities that were

enjoyable in the past, and having trouble remembering the dangerous event. A person with the symptoms will isolate themselves.

The third is hyperarousal symptoms which include being easily startled, feeling tense or “on edge”, and having difficulty sleeping, and/or outbursts. All of the symptoms above are experienced by an Indian woman whose 13-year old son becomes the narrator in the novel.

1.6 Methodology

The analysis of this novel is done through text-based and context-based interpretation. Furthermore, it is done by analyzing characters, plot (conflicts), and setting. These devices are inseparable since they support each other. Character is a person/people, animal, or anything that acts in literary works. Conflicts are actions of opposing forces. Setting is the place the time frame in which a story takes place (A Glossary of Literary Terms).