

**THE LOSS OF COMMITMENT
IN THE TWO SHORT STORIES *CELL ONE* (2007) AND *RULES OF THE
GAME* (1980) BY CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE AND AMY TAN**

THESIS

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ABSTRAK

Putra, Maulidar. 2011. The Loss of Commitment in the two short stories *Cell One* (2007) and *Rules of the Game* (1980) by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Amy Tan

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Skripsi ini merupakan analisa dari dua cerita pendek yang berjudul *Cell One* (2007) yang ditulis oleh Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche dan *Rules of the Game* (1980) yang ditulis oleh Amy Tan. Permasalahan yang dibahas dalam analisa ini adalah sejauh mana hilangnya sebuah komitmen terjadi didalam dua ruang lingkup yang berbeda, dalam keluarga dan dalam Departemen Kepolisian. Kemudian, seberapa penting karakter, setting dan konflik memberikan kontribusi untuk mengungkap bagaimana kekerasan dapat membuat seseorang kehilangan komitmennya. Tujuan dari penganalisaan ini adalah untuk mengetahui sejauh mana hilangnya komitmen seseorang dalam sebuah keluarga dan Departemen Kepolisian. Analisa ini dilakukan dengan mengaplikasikan konsep *psychoanalysis* oleh Sigmund Freud. Ketika seseorang melakukan sesuatu hanya berdasarkan pada kepuasan dan kesenangan pribadi tanpa mempertimbangkan apa yang akan dialami oleh orang lain, maka orang tersebut akan kehilangan komitmennya.

Hasil penganalisaan memperlihatkan bahwa dalam sebuah keluarga, seorang ibu tanpa dia sadari telah kehilangan komitmennya. Cara mendidik anak yang dilakukan oleh seorang ibu justru menunjukkan bahwa ibu tersebut sedang melakukan kekerasan terhadap anaknya yang mengakibatkan hilangnya komitmen dari ibu tersebut. Begitu pula di dalam Departemen kepolisian. Polisi yang diharapkan mampu menegakkan hukum malah melakukan kekerasan yang membuat mereka kehilangan komitmennya. Mereka berasumsi bahwa kekerasan yang mereka lakukan merupakan cara mereka menegakkan hokum. Namun kenyataannya hal tersebut mengukuhkan bahwa mereka telah kehilangan komitmennya. Cara-cara yang mereka lakukan adalah dengan melakukan *violence* (kekerasan) baik secara *physical violence* (kekerasan fisik) dan *mental violence* (kekerasan mental). Dengan demikian, dapat disimpulkan bahwa seseorang yang melakukan *violence* (kekerasan) hanya berdasarkan asumsi dan kesenangan pribadinya maka tanpa disadarinya orang tersebut telah kehilangan komitmennya.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Commitment is a bond and loyalty to something. It means when someone has a commitment toward something, he or she has to commit to that thing. The commitment occurs in a family relationship. A person in a family takes his/her roles and obligations as a husband or a wife, a father or a mother for their children. Likewise the children who perform their duty by being obedient to their parents show that they have demonstrated their loyalty to the family and the parents. This means that the family members are aware of their commitments in a family.

In general, some of the members of a family realize their position, roles, and duty, but the others fail to maintain that. They tend to forget their commitment in a family relationship. Thus the loss of commitment also appears in the smallest of social unit, a family. A mother has a vital role toward her children. She is the first teacher for her children thus children's attitude and behavior are very connected with what a mother taught. If she teaches, treats, and behaves in positive act, her children will grow to be a good person in the future. Based on that thing, it describes that a mother has important role. She has to be a mentor, protector, the best example and a provider of affection and love for her children. But unconsciously, a mother often does anything which shows that she lost her commitment toward their children. She does as violence like spans and

scolds them with the assumption to educate but actually it reveals her loss of commitment. Even when a mother does not care about her children, she shows that she fails to maintain her commitment toward them. A study by University of Missouri Extension Service in Cortright (2010) found that parents spend few times toward their children. Each day, dads only spend 8 minutes, working mothers spend 11 minutes and stay-at home mothers spend less than 30 minutes talking to their children. The study indicates that most of parents especially a mother loss their commitment toward their children. They do not pay much attention about their children and it is done unconsciously. Lack of affection and attention shows that the parents loss their commitment as a father and a mother.

The loss of commitment occurs within working atmosphere, in this case is a police department. The role of it is to protect the people instead to act negative that are not in accordance with its role and obligation in society. An unscrupulous police who tend to do negative things like doing violence, demanding bribes, murdering, intimidating and others show that a police is losing his commitment to the role of his job. A group of people calling themselves as Citizen Against Police Abuse or an abbreviated with CAPA (2010) states that in Louisville, everyone knows that police are often harass, jack up, beat or arrest people even they knows that police had killed someone. It indicates that the unscrupulous policeman in Louisville loss his commitment toward his role in the society. A policeman seems to be a nightmare to the citizen than a protector.

According to a policeman, a prisoner is the wealth source. Thus he treats the prisoner as well as a commodity and uses all the ways to earn money from a prisoner. CAPA (2010) describes that:

Officers get a commission every time they arrest someone. They get about \$40 every time they show up in court in addition to their salaries. This system encourages them to arrest anybody and slap them with a bogus charge, or pull people over for no reason, in hopes that they will be able to find something to charge them with.

The quotation above reflects the loss of commitment is shown when a police arrests someone easily in order to get the commission even he can do violence to force someone to acknowledge something that he does not do.

Both of the example show that when someone does not do as accordance with his role, he can be evaluated as a person who loss of his commitment. It can be caused from internal case and external case. The internal case happens when someone does something, that is not relate with his role, only to fulfill his own pleasure while the external case is happens when someone does something only to earn the opinion from other people.

The phenomenon above is not merely happened in reality but also reflected in the literary work as well. The two Short Stories *Cell One* and *Rules of the Game* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Amy Tan portray the loss of commitment. It is interesting to be analyzed since the characters in the two short stories show the loss of their commitment. The characters show that by doing violence and exploitation.

1.1.1 The Loss of Commitment

There are two terms that need to be explained in this analysis. There are loss and commitment. The term loss refers to “missing” or “fail to keep” or “fail to maintain”. According to Dyer (2006), the definition of loss is the act or instance of losing; the failure to keep or get something valued; the harm or suffering caused by losing or being lost. It means that the loss is the failure to keep or maintain something.

The second term is commitment. Commitment emerges as a loyalty and duty. According to Christenstock (2011):

Commitment is a duty to declaration, others, and ourselves. It defines honor and courage. We must commit to honor and courage with responsibility to any task or plan regardless of the consequence. We understand that all decision we make are commitments to saving or improving someone's life.

In short, the commitment can be defined as a duty to run the task or the role with the responsibility toward other or ourselves.

The loss of commitment in this analysis means the failure to maintain the loyalty and duty as a provider of affection and love in the family and as a protector and role model in the police department. Both of the two characters in the two different units indicate that they fail to maintain the commitment toward their roles and obligation by doing violence.

1.1.2 A Brief of the Authors

1.1.2.1 Amy Tan

Amy Tan was born on February 19th, 1952 in Oakland, California. She is a Chinese American writer. The harrowing life of her mother inspired her to write *The Kitchen God's Wife* in 1991. Tan received her bachelor's and master's degrees in English and linguistics from San José State University, and doctoral linguistics studies at UC Santa Cruz and UC Berkeley.

Tan has written several works. Her novels are *The Joy Luck Club* (1989), *The Kitchen God's Wife* (1991), *The Hundred Secret Senses* (1995), *Two Kinds* (2000), *The Bonesetter's Daughter* (2001), *Saving Fish from Drowning* (2005). Most of her works always relate to the family relationship for example the novel *The Joy Luck Club*. It focuses on the three mothers and four daughters share stories about their life. *The Kitchen God's Wife* also shows the relationship between mother and daughter. *The Hundred Secret Sense* shows the relationship between two sisters. *The Bonesetter's Daughter* also deals with the relationship between an American-born Chinese woman and her immigrant mother. Tan in Melani (2004) said that her works often relate to the family even though they do not always relate to the immigrant.

Her works also have won several awards. *The Joy Luck Club* won the finalist National Book Award, finalist National Book Critics Circle Award, finalist Los Angeles Times Fiction Prize, Bay Area Book Reviewers Award, Commonwealth Gold Award, American Library Association's Notable Books, American Library Association's Best Book for Young Adults, Asian/Pacific

American Awards for Literature Honorable Mention, selected for the National Endowment for the Arts' Big Read.

1.1.2.2 A brief of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie was born on September 15th, 1977 in Enugu, Nigeria. She is the fifth of six children to Igbo parents, Grace Ifeoma and James Nwoye Adichie. Her works are very interested to be read and analyzed because they contain many materials including a voice and an emotion that can attract the reader's attention. From the short story *Cell One* Ajibade (2010) stated that Adichie has her own technique to attract the readers. This technique makes her different from other writers. She used an effective method of writing to make the story becomes real and her style of writing makes the reader keep reading. It makes reader imagine and feel what the character's feel. Her works mostly related with the black people especially Nigerian. According to Tunca (2010), Adichie's works focus on the Black Nigerian experience in United States.

During her senior year at Eastern that she started working on her first novel, *Purple Hibiscus*, which was released in October 2003. The book has received wide critical acclaim: it was shortlisted for the Orange Fiction Prize (2004) and was awarded the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book (2005). Her second novel, *Half of a Yellow Sun* (also the title of one of her short stories), is set before and during the Biafran War. It was published in August 2006 in the United Kingdom and in September 2006 in the United States. Like *Purple Hibiscus*, it has also been released in Nigeria. Her collection of short stories, *The Thing around Your Neck*, was published in 2009.

Adichie has won several award, *That Harmattan Morning* won BBC Short Story Competition in 2002. *The American Embassy* won O. Henry Prize in 2003. *Half of a Yellow Sun* won David T. Wong International Short Story Prize in 2002/2003, Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, PEN 'Beyond Margins' Award, Orange Broadband Prize for Fiction in 2007. *Purple Hibiscus* won Hurston/Wright Legacy Award in 2004, Commonwealth Writers' Prize in 2005, MacArthur Foundation 'genius grant in 2008, and International Nonino Prize in 2009.

1.1.3 Rules of the Game and Cell One

The short story *Rules of the Game* (1980) by Amy Tan and *Cell One* (2007) by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie reflect the loss of commitment. The loss of commitment means the failure to maintain the loyalty and duty. It is exposed through the characters, a policeman and a mother. Both of the characters lose their commitment as a provider of affection and love in the family and as a protector and a role model in the society. In the two short stories, the loosing of loyalty as the characters' role shows the loss of their commitment. Loss of commitment can be revealed from two different units, a family and a police department.

Loss of commitment happens in the smallest unit of society, a family. It can be seen in a family relationship. In this case is the relationship between a mother and a child. A mother has a role as provider of affection and love for her children thus she has to give support, protection, and comfort in a family not a nightmare for her children by doing violence. The character in the short story *Rules of the Game*, a mother, tends to behave negatively toward her child. It is seen from the character's behavior. She tends to do violence. They are physical

and mental such as spank in the public place and suppress them even does not give option for her child. Besides, the other thing that shows the loss of commitment is exploitation. Exploitation is part of mental violence. The character exploits her child by positioned her child in a commodity position in order to get existence for herself in the society. Consciously, what the character done are the treatments in order to bring the successful for the child but unconsciously what they done reflect the opposite.

Loss of commitment also happens in a police department, in this case is the relationship between a police and a prisoner. Violence and exploitation are also the major focuses in exploring the loss of commitment. In the short story *Cell One*, a policeman behave negatively, regardless what he has done reflect the opposites with his role as a protector and a justice enforcer. The character prefers to do violence such as arrest someone without process in the court, hit the prisoner and even kill them. Moreover, the policeman does exploitation toward them thus the character places prisoner in the commodity position. A prisoner is the wealth source and toy for him.

1.2 Problem of Study

There are many issues that can be explored in the two short stories *Cell One* (2007) and *Rules of the Game* (1980) by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Amy Tan. The loss of commitment emerges as the main issue which done by the characters. In order to dig out the loss of commitment in the two short stories, research questions are needed. Those research questions are:

1. How far do the whole two short stories expose the loss of commitment?
2. To what extent do the fictional devices such as characters, setting and plot (conflict) give contribution in exposing the meaning of the loss of commitment?

1.3 Purpose of Study

This study is going to find out how far the two short stories *Cell One* and *Rules of the Game* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Amy Tan expose the loss of commitment. It is also aimed to investigate to what extent fictional devices such as characters, setting and plot (conflict) give contribution in revealing the meaning of the loss of commitment.

1.4 Previous Study

The analysis about the two short stories *Cell One* (2007) and *Rules of the Game* (1980) that focused on the loss of commitment has not been found yet. However there are several studies in journal that can give contribution and inspiration in analyzing these two short stories.

The first analysis was written by Ria Snellinx (2001), entitle “*All the world’s a stage*”: *Lanford Wilson’s Mirroring of the Contemporary U.S.* In this analysis, Snellinx describes that all of Wilson’s play deal with loss. The element that she focused on is the characters and setting. The characters which are the representation of American society lost their lives, moral and social values. Snellinx devides that loss into two scales, the microcosm and macrocosm. In the

microcosm, the loss of lives, loss of moral and social values happen in the family and family relationship, the relationship between men and women. While in the macrocosm, Snellinx explains them in the American society, work ethic, gay and straight, pollution and environment. Both of the two scales are the setting which occurred in his journal.

The other study that gives contribution is written by Mohd Muzhafar Idrus (2011), entitled “*Displacement and Alienation in Amy Tan’s Rules of the Game*”. In this analysis, Idrus concerns with the issues of alienation and displacement. That issues happen toward immigrants in this case is Chinese-American immigrants who are represented by Waverly, her mother and their family members. According to Bammer, (1994), the displacement is shown from the separation of people from the native culture through physical dislocation. Chinese-American immigrant show that they separate with their native culture because they live in the west. It shows the physical dislocation.

The second term, alienation comes from Wright, (2004), alienation refers to living in a system established by somebody else and is being made isolated from communities, be it the native and the host country. The assumption that Chinese-American Immigrant is weak and fool is the example of alienated environment. In this study, Idrus focuses on three elements, character, setting and conflict. The characters are Waverly Jong and her mother as the representation of immigrant in the United State. The setting refers to the condition and situation of America toward immigrant and the conflict is arises within the characters.

Those studies above have inspired this study. However, unlike the previous study, this analysis focuses on the loss of commitment in the two units, family and working atmosphere. It is emphasized on the characters, setting and plot (conflict) to reveal the meaning of the loss of commitment.

1.5 Theoretical Framework

The analysis of this study deals with the concept of Sigmund Freud concern with the physic zone of mental process, Id, Ego and Super Ego. Id is the basic zone of mental process. It relates with what Freud said in Guerin (2005) “pleasure principle”. It emphasizes on the self happiness and pleasure and does not care about the environment or society’s need. In Guerin (2005), Freud explains Id is an:

Obscure inaccessible part of our personality as a chaos, a cauldron of seething excitement (with) no organization and no unified will, only an impulsion to obtain satisfaction for the instinctual needs, in accordance with the pleasure principle. (Page 156, paragraph 2)

When human does something only to earn the pleasure or satisfaction for themselves, unconsciously their mental process can be categorized in the zone of Id. The second zone is ego. Ego governed by reality principle. Guerin (2005) added *the ego is governed by the reality principle. Consequently, the ego serves as intermediary between the world within and the world without.* It means when people uses the ego, they not only concern about personal desire but also the public view. It also keeps the stimulation of the id to become less active. Freud added in Wikipedia (2011):

...The ego is that part of the id which has been modified by the direct influence of the external world ... The ego represents what may be called reason and common sense, in contrast to the id, which contains the passions ... in its relation to the id it is like a man on horseback, who has to hold in check the superior strength of the horse; with this difference, that the rider tries to do so with his own strength, while the ego uses borrowed forces.

From the quotation above, it is clear that ego can be a bridge from the external world toward the human. Ego can be the first blocker when the human want to do something based on his/her own pleasure. The third zone is super ego. Based on Van Wagner (2010):

The superego is the aspect of personality that holds all of our internalized moral standards and ideals that we acquire from both parents and society--our sense of right and wrong. The superego provides guidelines for making judgments.

The super ego leads us to act perfect and also to civilize our behavior with the sense to divide what thing is right and wrong. By super ego, human can control their own pleasure and determine it whether it has a clash or not based on the society rules. It is dominated by moral principle. It blocks the pleasure principle.

When someone acts based on his pleasure, that person will loss his commitment easily. He tends to forget his role and it is reflected in the short story *Cell One*, a policeman asks a bribe to obtain money thus it reflects that he does something to get satisfaction for himself. It is the same with the character, a mother, in the short story *Rules of the Game*, the character only emphasize on their own pleasure rather than her child's feeling. The mental process of that an unscrupulous police and a mother can be categorized into Id. When someone only uses his Id and forget his role like a mother who loss her commitment as a

provider of affection and love because she does violence in order to fulfill her pleasure. A policeman who has a role as protector toward the civilian loses his commitment because he only considers his pleasure by doing violence.

Most of human actions are motivated by the thoughts and feelings. For example when someone goes to school to study, it is shown that he/she is motivated by his/her goal to be an intelligent person. Similar with someone who rob the bank, he/she is motivated to be rich instantly. Freud in ryerson.ca (2010) said that in understanding human behavior, it is important to concern with the thoughts and feelings which motivate our actions. It is clear that human's thoughts and feelings play important role in the human behavior. When someone does negative behavior, his/her thoughts are full of the ways in doing crime.

Related to this analysis, the two characters, a mother and a policeman, in this two short stories reflects that their behavior are motivated to bring the positive impact for other characters but unconsciously, what they have done are the opposite. The character, a mother, wants her children become polite and success in their future life but unconsciously that ambition leads her to do negative things such as violence. It is similar with the character, a policeman, who tries to be justice enforcer but his behavior show that he fails to do that even he tends to do negative act.

The form of this analysis is text based interpretation. Guerin (2005) said that the text based interpretation focuses on the work itself. Thus it is important to focus on the fictional devices such as characters, setting and plot (conflict) in revealing the meaning. Characters are the vital element in revealing the meaning.

Madden (2002) said that *characters which the author draws on literary work brings readers to life and let him known as the people we know in the real life. In order to analyze the character, it is important to focus on the characters' speeches and behavior.* In this analysis, the characters, mothers and police officers, tend to do violence thus unconsciously they failed to maintain their basic role of a mother as a provider of affection and love in the family and as a protector and a role model in the department for the policeman.

Setting has strong connection with the situation, location and atmosphere of the characters in the story. Madden (2002) said that:

Setting in fiction is the location and atmosphere of the story. It has a direct and indirect impact on character and plot. It supports and emphasizes the story meaning.

Thus, in knowing the characters and revealing the meaning, it is important to pay attention to the setting because it has strong impact on characters and plot. It also provide the situation, location, time and atmosphere in the story. The situation and condition in the family and police department become the setting in this analysis. From that, people unconsciously lose their commitment. The other element is plot. In plot, this study focuses on the conflict which occurs between one character and another.

1.6 Methodology

The analysis of this novel was done through text based interpretation by focusing on fictional devices such as characters, setting and plots (conflict). The three of them are inseparable because they are interrelated each other. Character is

used to disclose the loss of commitment. They were analyzed through behavior and speeches. While setting gives many contributions in exploring the meaning through the condition and atmosphere which create plot. Moreover, these elements are analyzed by using psychoanalysis theory by Freud.

CHAPTER II

THE LOSS OF COMMITMENT

The short story *Rules of the Game* (1980) by Amy Tan and *Cell One* (2007) by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie reflect loss of commitment. It is exposed through the text based interpretation by focusing on fictional devices such as character, setting and conflict. The characters in these two short stories are a mother and a policeman. Both of the characters lose their commitment. A mother loss her commitment as provider of affection and love while the policeman loss his commitment as the protector and role model. In the two short stories, the loosing of loyalty shows the loss of their commitment. Loss of commitment can be revealed from two different units, a family and a police department.

2.1 Family

A mother has basic role as the provider of affection and love for her child. A mother must teach good values to her child thus good values, norm, and attitude will arise from the child. As a protector, in family relationships, a mother has an obligation to protect her child from the harmful things. When the child gets violence from outside both mentally and physically, the mother should be able to protect her child. All of those things reflect the affection and love of a mother toward her child.

Although the mother realize her important role as a provider of affection and love, but others tend to forget the importance of commitment toward their child. When she is expected to give affection and love for her child, she just does

the opposite. When she is expected to protect her child, instead she has committed the violence toward her child thus it reflects that she cannot serve her commitment. That violence can be categorized into physical violence and mental violence.

Physical violence is the violence which is done by using solid media such as slapped someone by using hand. The character, a mother, in the short story *Rules of the Game*, does physical violence. Having a role provider of affection and love, she unconsciously does violence toward her child. In short story *Rules of the Game*, the character does violence toward her child.

...A ten-year-old boy had chosen a box that jangled when she shook it. It was a tin globe of the world with a slit for inserting money. He must have thought it was full of dimes and nikels, because when he saw that it had just ten pennies, his face fell with such undisguised disappointment that his mother slapped the side of his head and led him out of the church hall, apologizing to the crowd for her son who had such bad manners he couldn't appreciate such a fine give. (Page 2)

The quotation above reflects that physical violence which is done by someone unconsciously shows that human only use his Id. He/she is only emphasize on his/her pleasure without consider with the other people think. In this short story, the character slapped her son as the punishment because he did something which is her mother called "*bad manners*" and apologize to the crowd. What the character's done shows that she did violence to get the assumption from the people as good mother who can educate child. Unconsciously, it shows that the character emphasizes on her pleasure to get fame and good assumption and does not think what the effect of her physical violence toward her child.

The quotation above reflects the conflict from the way of the character to solve the problem. She tends to solve in by doing violence toward her child. It is added with the setting of this short story, the public place. It refers to the situation. It is only a mother who has no love can do physical violence toward her child in front of the crowd. In addition, a ten-year old boy cannot determine whether his manners are good or bad but a mother who knows about good and bad thing does the violence toward her child. This situation will lead the child to assume that mother cannot be a protector but change into cruel people. Even they will avenge to her mother.

Mental violence is reflected in this short story. It attacks human's mental condition. As a provider of affection and love for the child, a mother should not show the disrespect toward her child in every aspect. She has to support her child, in this case is the positive behavior. When a mother shows the disrespect toward her child, it means she fails to maintain her commitment. In this short story, the character shows the disrespect in the following quotation:

My mother placed my first trophy next to a new plastic chess set that the neighborhood Tao society had given to me. As she wiped each piece with a soft cloth, she said, "Next time win more, lose less."
 "Ma, it's not how many pieces you lose," I said.
 "Sometimes you need to lose pieces to get ahead."
 "Better to lose less, see if you really need."
 At the next tournament, I won again, but it was my mother who wore the triumphant grin.
 "Lost eight piece this time. Last time was eleven.
 What I tell you? Better off lose less!" I was annoyed, but I couldn't say anything. (Page 5)

The text reflects that the character does not respect her child for three times. First, the sentence *My mother placed my first trophy next to a new plastic chess set*

reflects that a mother assumes the first trophy as the useless and unserious thing even it has position as well as a toy. Second, the disrespect is shown from the mother's assumption that the trophy just a given not something valued. It is seen from the location of the trophy is next to the new plastic chess which is a gift from the society. And the last one, from the sentence *Lost eight piece this time. Last time was eleven. What I tell you? Better off lose less!*". All of that shows the mother does not appreciate and respect at all her child although the child can win the chess tournament. The disrespect of the character shows that the character fails to maintain her commitment as a provider of affection and love in a family relationship. A mother should give support in order to develop her daughter skill. A mother has a role to give affection, love thus she has to appreciate, respect, and support anything toward her child and the role of a mother can be felt by the child.

The character finds the solution of her problem by doing mental violence in this case is the disrespect toward her daughter. The setting refers to the circumstance around the mother is added to reflect the disrespect of the character toward her child. The first is the position of the chess trophy. It is positioned next to the new plastic chess. And the mother's attitude when her daughter won a chess tournament which shows the character fail to maintain her commitment to give affection and love for the child.

The loss of commitment is also reflected through the mental violence by neglecting her child. It can cause many effects for example it leads someone to become less confident or even to lead people to have motivation in doing crime. The character that loses her commitment is reflected from the following quotation:

...that's when my mother decided I no longer had to do the dishes. Winston and Vincent had to do my chores.
 "Why does she get to play and we do all the work," complained Vincent.
 "Is new American rules," said my mother. "Meimei play, squeeze all her brain out for win chess. You play, worth squeeze towel." (Page 5)

The text above reflects that the character neglects her child. She sees nothing good from them. Neglecting her sons also reflects that the character treats them unfairly. The provider of affection and love should treat her child fairly thus it will make a respectful atmosphere between the children but in this case, the character cannot maintain her commitment. She treats her son unfairly and it will make a negative atmosphere in the house.

Neglecting is the way of the character, a mother, solves the conflict between her and her children. It makes the character lose her commitment because a mother should not commit a violence. The setting on the quotation above refers to the atmosphere. The negative atmosphere in the house shows that the character only emphasizes on her pleasure. In this short story, the pleasure of mother is to get the fame in the society thus when her child cannot bring the fame for her, she will underestimate and treat the child unfairly in the house.

The last form of loss of commitment is exploitation. In the family relationship, conscious or unconsciously parents exploit their child for wealth or in order to make them become famous around the community. In fact, nowadays most parents exploit their child. It can be seen in the television show. Most of parents prefer their child to sing in the television rather than study in school. They exploit them by asking them to show in the television in order to get wealth and

fame from the people. The character in this short story shows that she also exploits her child in the following quotation:

My mother would proudly walk with me, visiting many shops, buying very little. "This my daughter Wave-ly Jong," She said to whoever looked her way.

One day after we left a shop I said under my breath, "I wish you wouldn't do that, telling everybody I'm your daughter." My mother stopped walking. Crowds of people with heavy bags pushed past us on the sidewalk, bumping into first one shoulder, then another.

"Aiii-ya. So shame be with mother?" She grasped my hand even tighter as she glared at me.

I looked down. "It's not that, it's just so obvious. It's just so embarrassing."

"Embarrass you be my daughter?" Her voice was cracking with anger.

That's not what I meant. That's not what I said."

"What you say?"

I knew it was a mistake to say anything more, but I heard my voice speaking. "Why do you have to use me to show off? If you want to show off, then why don't you learn to play chess?"

The text above reflects that the character exploits her daughter because the character uses her daughter as a tool in order to get famous and respect from the society. It is reflected from the sentence *My mother would proudly walk with me, visiting many shops, buying very little. "This my daughter Wave-ly Jong," She said to whoever looked her way.* The sentence reflects that the character positioned her daughter as a tool in order to earn the fame. It relates to what Freud said in Guerin (2005) "pleasure principle". It emphasizes on the self happiness and pleasure and does not care about the environment or society's need. The character just focuses on her pleasure to get famous in the society without concerning her daughter's feeling. The quotation above reflects how the character solves her conflict with her daughter. She solves it by exploits her daughter in

order to get the fame. This exploitation indicates that the character fails to maintain her commitment because the role of a mother is to give affection and love not to exploit the children.

The violence both physical and mental violence done by the character indicates that she fails to keep her commitment as a provider of affection and love. The ways of the character to solve the conflict prove it. She tends to solve it by doing negative things like does not respect and neglects her daughter. It is added with the setting that refers to the condition in the public place and the atmosphere in a family. Moreover she makes negative atmosphere in her house among her children.

2.2 Police Department

The loss of commitment also reflected in the government unit, in this case is police department. A policeman has obligation to be the protector and role model for the citizen. As a protector, a policeman has to protect the citizen from everything that make them fear, worry and unsafe. He is commanded to give comfort in citizen's life. As role model, a policeman should be good model that can be followed by citizen.

Although most of police realize their important role such as to be a protector and role model for the citizen but in the short story *Cell One*, the unscrupulous police deny his commitment as protector and role model, he tends to do the negative things. When he is hoped to protect the citizen from the criminals or to be an ideal model to be followed, he just do the violence. Physical violence

and mental violence are that negative things that are done by the unscrupulous police.

Having authority as a police makes some people forget his commitment thus he can do violence toward other, especially toward citizen easily. His profession makes he claims that he cannot be blamed if he does the violence. This is kind of loss of his commitment as protector because in fact he should help and protect people not do the violence. It is also reflected in the following quotation:

There the police could do what they were famous
for doing when under pressure to produce results:
kill people. (page. 4)

From the text above, the character does something that shows the loss of his commitment through the physical violence. The character only emphasize on his own pleasure without determining what the people feel and get. He only act based on his pleasure not the law procedure to solve the problem or to calm the people. That quotation above also shows that a policeman gets the satisfaction when he kills or beats people. It is viewed that the character does the physical violence easily. This negative behavior reflects that he acts based on Id.

The character solves the conflict by doing physical violence. The character kills people based on his perception. The word “under pressure” indicates that it is only based on the policeman assumption not the real circumstance. It reflects that the character fails to maintain his commitment because the role of a policeman is to protect the civilian not to harm them.

The loss of commitment makes people position the physical violence as the easier way to force the justice in this case is killing people. A policeman does

not hesitate to do violence toward prisoner until they die. In the short story *Cell One*, the character can kill the prisoner in order to dig out the information in addition to make other become fear and give information easily. It is seen from the quotation bellow:

His second shock was learning about the cell farthest away from his, Cell One. He had never seen it, but every day two policemen carried a dead man out of Cell One, stopping by Nnamabia's cell to make sure that the corpse was seen by all. (Page. 5)

The text reflects that a policeman cannot maintain his role as the protector. When he is expected to protect the prisoner from other, he just does the negative thing. With his authority, he can kill someone easily in order to be justice enforcer. In addition, this false assumption reflects that he cannot maintain his commitment. The kind of tortured can be flogging or beating. In short story, *Cell One*, *two policemen were flogging a man with kokobo as we drove into police station.* (Page. 7). The irony of it, that tortured can be seen by civilian, indirectly it means that they do violence whenever and wherever they like.

In this short story, the loss of commitment also reflected through the character by doing mental violence. Exploitation as one form of mental violence is done by the character. The character puts the prisoners in the commodity position in order to make him easier to be exploited by asking for the bribe from him. Asking for the bribe is the form of exploitation. As a policeman, he is not allowed to accept the bribe. He should help citizen to solve their problem not to make new problem for the citizen. Mostly, a policeman distorted his authority as police. He

tends to ask the bribe to solve any problems easier. This condition is also reflected in the following quotation:

The Enugu police station was in a sprawling, sandy compound. My mother bribed a policeman at the desk with money, and with jollof rice and meat, and they allowed Nnamabia to come out of his cell and sit on a bench under a mango tree with us. (page. 4)

The text above indicates that a bribe has important role to solve or to make someone easier to solve the problem. When character asks for a bribe, it reflects that he cannot maintain his commitment. Asking for a bribe shows that the character positions the prisoner as a commodity so that he can takes the advantages from the prisoner. Another point still dealing with this can be seen in the quotation bellow:

“If we ran Nigeria like this cell,” he said, “we would have no problems. Things are so organized. Our cell has a chief and he has a second-in-command, and when you come in you are expected to give them some money. If you don’t, you’re in trouble.” (page. 4)

The quotation above indicates that the prisoners are forced to give money or bribe to a policeman in order to keep them save from the violence of the police. It means there is a system that money has central role in the relationship between a policeman and prisoners. It shows that a policeman fail to maintain his commitment as role model. The policeman uses the authority of police to earn the wealth from prisoners. The sentence *if you don’t, you’re in trouble* shows a forcing and threatening for prisoners. This is really ironic. The policeman supposes to build an honest man unfortunately he uses a dishonest. He is not able to protect and to help the citizen free of charge.

Bribe can be defined as catalyst. It makes people do anything easier and quickly. On the other hand, if someone does not provide bribe, his problem will be delayed or even canceled. In the *Cell One*, it is reflected from the quotation below:

...My father no longer gave a monologue, as soon as we were waved through the police checkpoints, on how illiterate and corrupt the police were. He did not bring up the day when they had delayed us for an hour because he'd refused to bribe them. (Page. 5)

The text above reflects that a bribe has been being the catalyst in solving problem. When someone needs help from the policeman then it is very helpful to pay it with the bribe. If someone does not provide a bribe, his problem will hang.

Related to the theory of mental process, the unscrupulous policeman only focuses on his own pleasure. He forces the prisoner to give him money in order to solve the problem easier. They only concentrate on what they need without determining how the feeling of prisoner and the family of prisoners is. This condition leads to the mental process of the unscrupulous policeman which emphasizes on the pleasure principle.

Suppression is another form of mental violence. As a protector, a policeman should not frighten and suppress other people, especially the prisoner. He should not create traumatic atmosphere among people. But in this short story, a policeman does the opposite. It is viewed from the following quotation:

He had never seen it, but every day two policemen carried a dead man out of Cell One, stopping by Nnamabia's cell to make sure that the corpse was seen by all. (Page. 5)

The text above reflects that the policeman had made a mental violence against the prisoners. The police gave mental pressure in order to bring fear and pressure in prisoners' mind in order to get the bribe easier from them. That mental conditions experienced by prisoners also showed that a policeman gets pleasure from that suppression thus it can be said that the unscrupulous policeman is only using his pleasure principle. Unconsciously, the using desire shows that the characters failed to maintain their commitment as protector.

The external conflict is occurred in this short story, in this case it is the conflict between a policeman and people. A policeman did the harmful thing for the civilians and it opposites with their role. When civilians want to fight back the arbitrary of a policeman, he will kill the civilians easily. He can kill people easily with the assumption they are attacked. That way to solve his problem shows he cannot maintain he commitment as the protector because the main point of protector is to protect the citizen not to harm them. The setting from the quotation above reflects that "cell one" refers to the situation of police department. In the police department, a policeman who has duty as protector did the opposite. He can do anything toward prisoners even it hurts them physically and mentally. This situation indicates that the police department cannot be a place to reduce crime but they themselves do the crime.

The loss of commitment also occurs in the larger unit of society, in this case it is a police department. A policeman who has obligation to protect the people tends to do the negative behavior. The unscrupulous a policeman prefer to do violence rather than to be a protector and role model. Physical and

psychological violence are done by them in order to force the justice based on their perception. In fact, what they have done reflect they only do something to satisfy their pleasure. The conflict is represented from the ways of the character to solve the problem by killing and hitting the civilian. There are the two forms of physical violence while exploitation and suppression are the two forms of mental violence. Both of them indicate that the character, a policeman, failed to maintain their commitment.

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