

DIALEKTIKA

Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra dan Budaya

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- Penanggung Jawab** : Dr. rer. pol. Ied Veda Sitepu, M.A.
- Pemimpin Redaksi** : Yusniaty Galingging, M.Hum
- Anggota Dewan Redaksi** : Prof. DR. L.S. Bangun, M. Ed
Masda Surti Simatupang, M. Hum.
Susanne Sitohang, M. A.
Jannes Fredy Pardede, M. Hum
- Tata Usaha** : Tata Usaha FS-UKI
- Alamat Redaksi** : Fakultas Sastra UKI
Kampus UKI, Lantai 2
Jln. Mayjend Sutoyo, Cawang
Jakarta 13630
- Telp. 021-8092425, 809 9190
Pes. 324 (TU)
Fax. 021-80886882
- Alamat E-mail** : fsukidialektika@yahoo.co.id
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Kata Pengantar

Puji syukur kehadiran Tuhan yang maha kuasa yang telah menyertai keberlangsungan terbitnya Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra dan Budaya Fakultas Sastra UKI untuk volume ke tujuh ini. Tulisan-tulisan yang diterbitkan pada jurnal kali ini lebih didominasi oleh artikel dari bidang kajian penerjemahan. Memang tidak dapat disangkal kalau bidang kajian ini sangat menarik untuk dikaji mengingat keunikan dari tiap bahasa yang menjadi ciri setiap bahasa yang sepertinya tidak dapat diekspresikan dalam bahasa lain ternyata tetap dapat dinyatakan dalam bahasa yang berbeda.

Ada sebuah kajian sastra pada Dialektika kali ini, yaitu sebuah kajian yang membahas peranan dan kedudukan perempuan yang sering dipandang lebih rendah dari kaum laki-laki dan bagaimana perempuan kemudian dijadikan objek komoditi oleh masyarakat, khususnya mas media. Selain ini, ditemukan juga tulisan yang memuat kajian pengajaran bahasa yang membahas adanya '*belief*' dikalangan dosen dalam pengajaran yang dapat digunakan untuk pengembangan pengajaran.

Kiranya tulisan-tulisan yang dimuat dalam Dialektika kali ini dapat menginspirasi para pembacanya untuk menggali lebih dalam lagi kajian-kajian bahasa, sastra dan budaya yang ada. Dan kami tetap mengharapkan bahwa kehadiran jurnal ini dapat menjadi wadah komunikasi akademik yang mendorong dan menghasilkan penulis-penulis yang bukan hanya dikalangan dosen Fakultas Sastra UKI saja, tetapi juga lintas universitas yang ada di Jakarta maupun di Indonesia. Semoga bermanfaat.

THE 20TH CENTURY CHILD ABUSE IN AMERICA REFLECTED IN THE NOVEL "FLOWERS IN THE ATTIC" WRITTEN BY V.C.ANDREWS

Sylvie Meiliana
English Department, Faculty of Letters
Universitas Nasional, Jakarta

Abstrak

Tulisan ini bertujuan mendeskripsikan kekerasan terhadap anak dalam sebuah karya sastra. Dalam karya ini, pengarang mengungkap kekerasan terhadap anak yang terjadi di Amerika pada abad ke-20. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan teknik analisis isi yang dilakukan dengan menempuh model alir, yaitu reduksi data, penyajian data, dan menarik kesimpulan. Analisis menggunakan teori sosiologi Alan Swingewood. Sumber data penelitian adalah sebuah novel karya V.C. Andrews berjudul Flowers in The Attic. Hasil penelitian sebagai berikut. Pertama, tokoh utama adalah Cathy seorang anak korban kekerasan. Kedua, latar sosial menggambarkan kekerasan terhadap anak di Amerika Serikat pada abad ke-20. Ketiga, kekerasan terhadap anak seperti kekerasan fisik, psikis, dan seksual tercermin di dalam novel Flowers in The Attic, karya V.C. Andrews.

Kata Kunci: Kekerasan anak, kekerasan fisik, psikis, seksual, sosiologi sastra.

INTRODUCTION

The occurrence of child abuse or maltreatment is a widespread problem, which exists in our society and has not yet been resolved. Each year, more and more children are victims of the cruelty of child abuse. It occurs at every socioeconomic level, not only in the developed countries, but also in the developing countries. It presents from different cultural lines, racial, gender, family background and within all religions, and at all levels of education.

The international researches show that children in different countries are believed to have suffered from physical abuse and other forms of maltreatments including sexual, psychological and emotional and neglect.

Some international studies have shown that, depending on the country, between a quarter and a half of all children report severe and frequent physical abuse, which includes being beaten, kicked or tied up by parents. Studies from around the world also show that approximately 20% of women and 5%–10% of men report having been sexually abused as children. Many children are subjected to psychological and emotional abuse as well as to neglect. (WHO, 2006)

An American based institution, the National Opinion Research Center (1998) reveals that children under the age of 5 reported to have received physical punishment by their parents. While many Americans believe that physical punishment is necessary to discipline and educate children.

Phoenix Children's Hospital reported the following rates of physical punishment by parents : (a) nearly 66% of 1- and 2-year-olds, (b) 80% by the time children reach 5th grade, and (c) 85% by the time adolescents are in high school. Along the same lines, the National Opinion Research Center (1998) disclosed that 73% of surveyed Americans agreed or strongly agreed that it is "sometimes necessary to discipline a child with a good hard spanking." (Barnett, 2011)

Another research has shown that prolonged maltreatment to a child can give some negative impacts to the child's developing brain which may manifest psychological and health problems.

In recent years there has been an upsurge of research into early brain development, including into the effects of maltreatment on the developing brain during infancy and early childhood. This research is starting to give clear indications that the brain's development can be physiologically altered by prolonged, severe

or unpredictable stress – including maltreatment – during a child's early years. Such an alteration in the brain's development can in turn negatively affect the child's physical, cognitive, emotional, and social growth. (WHO, 2006)

In addition to that, literary works, arts, and even sciences have recorded the child abuse phenomenon for many years ago and eventually have a connection to it. From literary perspective it is mentioned that literature imitates the social reality of the living things even until the inanimate objects.

"Literature "imitates" "life"; and "life" is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary "imitation." (Wellek, 1977: 109)

Child abuse itself has become a phenomenon that emerges in society and has inspired several authors of literary works. "Flowers in the Attic", a 1979 novel by V.C. Andrews shows the reflection of child abuse in the 20th century in America.

Based on the above-stated facts, it is clear that child abuse has become a serious issue in society that still exists in the 20th century and the "Flowers in the Attic" is worth analysing to reveal the reflection of child abuse using the reflection theory by Alan Swingewood.

METHOD

In conducting this research, I apply descriptive qualitative and library research methods as cited in the Qualitative and Quantitative Research by John Anderson, Qualitative research is conducted by collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data. (Anderson, 2006)

A library research usually takes the form of the literary review. There are steps taken in conducting the research: Choosing the novel as the object of this research; reading the whole novel; deciding the problem

as child abuse based on the novel "Flowers in the Attic"; collecting data related to the object of the research; deciding the reflection theory by Alan Swingewood to reveal the reflection of the 20th century child abuse in America based on the novel "Flowers in the Attic".

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The analysis is divided into three sections: the main character, the social setting, and the reflection of child abuse in a literary work.

Main Character

Main character is a character that has a central position in a story. Main character is also the center of what the author wants to tell in her/his work. Main character is character that mostly appears in many events of the story.(Nurgiyantoro, 2009). Main character can be defined as an important character in a story. It determines the plot of the story because it is mostly exposed and connected to other character/s in the story. It can be a subject of an action or even the object of it. (Nurgiyantoro, 2009) The main character in the novel "Flowers in the Attic" is Cathy. She is the central part of the story and dominates every part of the events in the novel from the beginning until the end of the story.

The following events prove Cathy as the main character. (1) Cathy is locked in an end room of her grandparents' home; (2) Cathy is alarmed by her grandmother; (3) Cathy explores a huge attic of the house; (4) Cathy receives physical punishment from her grandmother; (5) Cathy receives physical punishment from her grandmother; (6) Cathy is verbally abused by her grandmother; (7) Cathy acts as a mother for her younger sibling, Cory; (8) Cathy is slapped by her mother; (9) Cathy is ignored by her grandmother on Christmas Day; (10) Cathy is stared at in nude by Chris; (11) Cathy is prohibited from eating for two weeks; (12) Cathy is provided by her mother, clothes which do not fit in to her size; (13) Cathy is

called a heartless child by her mother; (14) Cathy has terrible nightmares; (15) Cathy is raped by her own sibling; (16) Cathy decides to escape from her grandparents' house.

Based on the above events, it is clearly seen that Cathy is the main character in this novel as she has the highest intensity involvement in events from the beginning to the end of the story that builds the story. It means that without Cathy's involvement in the story, the novel will not be possible.

Social Setting

Social setting shows how the characters live in the story. It can be the way they think, their habits, beliefs, or even the culture of the place where the story takes place.

"Latar sosial menyaran pada hal-hal yang berhubungan dengan perilaku kehidupan sosial masyarakat di suatu tempat yang diceritakan dalam karya fiksi... dapat berupa kebiasaan hidup, adat istiadat, tradisi, keyakinan, pandangan hidup, cara berpikir dan bersikap ..." (Nurgiyantoro, 2009:233)

In America, the first public law regulating child abuse was just passed by Congress in 1974, which is also known as the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). Only since then, any cases of child abuse require the reporting to legislation. Long before the law was passed; children have been neglected, beaten, exploited, and even murdered by their parents and caregivers.

The concept of child abuse and neglect is relatively new to American society. Although children have been neglected, beaten, exploited, and even murdered by their parents and caregivers for hundreds of years, it is only since the mid-twentieth century that legislation requiring the reporting and prosecution of child abuse has been enacted. In 1974 Public Law 93-247, known as the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) was passed by Congress. Under this

statue, only parents or caregivers can be perpetrators of child abuse or neglect. (2013)

According to the World Health Organization, the classification of child abuse is divided into four forms, they are physical, psychological or emotional, and sexual abuse as well as neglect.

Child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power. (WHO, 1999)

The United Nation Childrens' Fund (UNICEF) reported that as many as 20,000 children in America are believed to have been killed by the family members during the past decade. In addition, it suggests that each week in America, as many as 27 children below 15 years old die from physical abuse or neglect.

According to figures released by UNICEF, over the past decade more than 20,000 American children are believed to have been killed in their own homes by family members....Twenty-seven children under the age of 15 die from physical abuse or neglect every week in America. (Radford, 2014)

A pediatric radiologist in America, John Caffey, reported the association of multiple fractures and subdural hemorrhages in six infants. He remained suspicious of a traumatic origin despite adamant denials from the parents. He determined that the injuries were the result of traumatic forces—physical abuse. Although he noted that these unexplained injuries to children were a problem, his report received relatively little attention.

Pediatrician and radiologist John Caffey became concerned about physical abuse after investigating six cases in which infants suffered subdural hematomas and long bone fractures.

Unable to link these injuries to skeletal diseases or other physiological causes, he determined that the injuries were the result of traumatic forces—physical abuse. Although he noted that these unexplained injuries to children were a problem, his reports received little attention (Coleman, 2007)

One of the universities in America, Florida International University, reveals the most well-known case of physical abuse which happened in 1987. The 6 year old American girl, Lisa (Launders) Steinberg was killed by her well-educated and upper-class adopting parents Joel Steinberg and Hedda Hessbaum. One day, Lisa's mother, Hedda called a police claiming that Lisa had choked on food and insisted that the bruises on Lisa's body were the result of multiple falling from her roller skates. Lisa was found unconscious by the police and died four days later. Her parents later were arrested and charged on child abuse.

Lisa was the adopted daughter of Joel Steinberg (age 46) and Hedda Nessbaum (age 45), a well-educated, upper-class couple...In 1987, Hedda called the police to report that her daughter had choked on food. In order to explain the multiple bruises on Lisa's body, Hedda claimed that she had fallen a lot lately on her roller skates. When the police arrived, six-year-old Lisa Steinberg was unconscious. She died four days later in a hospital...The couple was arrested on child abuse charges. (2009)

The next description of child abuse is sexual abuse. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, sexual abuse in America is a timeless social problem that began to emerge in the 20th century from all spheres of society. It proves by the fact that 3 million cases of sexual abuse generated each year and 6 children are said to have been sexually abused every minute.

Historically, CSA has existed for decades in the United States involving all groups of people regardless of culture, religion, educational level and socioeconomic factors. It has been documented that more than three million reports of child abuse are generated in the United States every year. Most shockingly, six children are reported to be abused every minute. (Nwogu, 2015)

According to Kinsey's study in 1938 and 1949, 25% of 4,441 women in America reported at least one episode of sexual abuse before adolescence. The greater proportions of perpetrators are relatives or adults known to the child.

A pioneer investigator of the prevalence of sexual abuse of children was Alfred Kinsey (between 1938 and 1949), who collected data from 4,441 women, most born between 1900 and 1929. Nearly 25 percent of these women indicated that they had had sexual contact with adult men, usually family members, before they were 13 years old. (Coleman, 2007)

The sample case of sexual abuse in the 20th Century in America happened in Hamilton Township, New Jersey. In 1994, the seven years old Megan Kanka was raped and murdered by a neighbor named Josse Timmendequas. The 33 year old Jesse was a registered sex offender when he moved across the street from Megan and her family, however the Kanka family had no idea that their neighbor was a threat to their safety.

The 33-year-old Timmendequas told cops he lured Megan into his home by promising to show her his new puppy. Then he led her to his upstairs bedroom, where he beat, raped and strangled her... They had no idea three child predators were living across the street from where they were raising Megan and their two other kids – Jeremy, then 9, and Jessica, then 11. (Nwogu, 2015)

The next description of child abuse in America is psychological or emotional abuse. A study from Gilbert R, et.al found that 8% to 9% of women and 4% of men in the

United States reported to have suffered from serious psychological abuse as a child. *United States found that approximately 8% to 9% of women and 4% of men reported exposure to severe psychological abuse during childhood. (Gilbert, 2009: 68-81)*

According to Child Maltreatment national report (1997), psychological maltreatment was reported in only about 6.1 percent of the 817,665 child abuse reports received from 43 states. This make psychological abuse the lowest reported type of abuse.

Isolated psychological maltreatment has had the lowest rate of substantiation of any type of child maltreatment. In the 1997 Child Maltreatment national report, psychological maltreatment ("emotional maltreatment") was reported in 6.1% of 817 665 reports received from 43 states. (1997)

The last description of child abuse in America is neglect. In America, the concept of neglect was introduced during the initial White House Conference on Children and Youth in 1909. Prior to that, children were sometimes removed from their homes, not because of abuse or neglect, but solely because their families were poor. (Coleman, 2007)

A study reveals that neglect is the most common type of child abuse in the United States. As much as 78.3% of maltreated children, most of them are suffered from neglect. *Neglect is by far the most common form of child mistreatment in the United States In fact, 78.3% of child maltreatment victims suffered neglect. (FindLaw, 2015).* Another report from Child Trends Data Bank presented the largest proportion compared with any other types of child abuse that as much as 7, 2 per thousand children are neglected. In 1990, the report children being neglected increased from 49 percent to 79 percent in 2011.

Physical abuse in the "Flowers in the Attic" novel is reflected several times. As the major character, Cathy, is physically abused not only by her grandmother but also by her mother, Corrine. The first reflection of physical abuse in "Flowers in the Attic" novel can be found when Cathy gets whipped by her grandmother in a room. There, Cathy does not obey her grandmother's order to stop screaming. Cathy then is dragged into the bathroom, ordered to undress and gets whipped at her back. Even until the willow switch breaks, Cathy gets beaten at her back by her grandmother using a long-handled brush and gets hit at the right side of her skull using a belt.

"Silence this second, unless you want more of the same!"

I couldn't stop screaming, not even when she dragged me off to the bed and threw the twin aside when they tried to protect me...into the bathroom, where I, too, was ordered to strip."Undress or I will rip off your clothes."

Like a wild woman out of control, she lashed at me until the willow switch broke. The pain was like fire. I thought it was over, but she picked up a long-handled brush and with that she beat me about the head and shoulders.

I yelled "You're not women! You're a monster! Something unhuman and inhumane!" My reward for this was a belting whack against the right side of my skull. Everything went black. (Andrews, 1979:260-261)

Another event that shows the reflection of physical abuse that is perpetrated by Cathy's grandmother is seen while Cathy is asleep in the room. There, Cathy is plunged in a hypodermic needle with some drug to keep her more asleep by her grandmother who then poured hot tar on Cathy's hair.

..."Sit down, girl!" she snapped. "I am going to cut off your hair to the scalp-..."My worst fear! I'd rather be whipped!...I was paralyzed by the very threat of those long, shiny scissors. The

morning came pale behind the draperies that shut out the yellow light of hope. Somehow I manage to get my hands up there – and that's when I found a loud voice to scream! Really scream! He found a small red prick on my arm where the grandmother had plunged in a hypodermic needle to keep me asleep with some drug. And while I slept, she had poured hot tar on my hair. (Andrews, 1979:225-230)

The next reflection of physical abuse that is found in the "Flowers in the attic" novel is perpetrated by Cathy's mother. In this novel, the example of physical abuse that is committed by Cathy's mother can be seen when Cathy is slapped on her face twice with her mother's heavily ringed hand. Cathy gets physical abuse when her mother feels disappointed or mad when she hears that Cathy complains about her ignorance for not giving an immediate response to Cathy's younger brother, Cory, who suffers again from terrible fever.

...And there was Momma – doing nothing. Unable to make decision! I shouted out. "What choice do you have but to take Cory to a hospital?" I screamed out, "What's the matter with you, Momma? Are you just going to stand there and think about yourself? "You!" she spat. "Always it's you!" And with that she raised her heavily ringed hand, and she slapped my face, hard! Then again she slapped me. (Andrews, 1979:347)

The next reflection of child abuse in the "Flowers in the Attic" novel is sexual abuse. The reflection of sexual abuse that is exposed in the "Flowers in the Attic" novel is divided into two sub-forms, sexual touching and non-touching behaviors. Touching behavior happens where the victims are forced to conduct unwanted intimate relationship and even get raped. Meanwhile, non-touching behavior happens where the victims are inappropriately being watched in a nude by the aggressor to fulfill the sexual desire of the aggressor. The reflection of sexual abuse in the "Flowers in the Attic" novel can be found when Cathy gets sexual harassment by her elder brother,

Chris. There, Cathy sees at herself in nude into the dresser mirror and then gets harassed by Chris who watches at her naked body.

Here I was a teen-anger, and I'd never see myself naked all over... and before the dresser mirror I stripped off everything, and then I stared, preened, and admired...From side to side I twisted, keeping my eyes glued to my reflection as I performed ballet positions. A rippling sensation on the back of my neck gave me the awareness that someone was near, and watching. I whirled about suddenly to catch Chris standing in the deep shadows of the closet. His eyes lowered from my flushed face down to my breasts, then lower, and lower, and down to my feet before they traveled upward ever so slowly. (Andrews, 1979:222)

As Cathy realizes it, she decides to pick up her dress and put it on. However Chris interrupts and forces her not to put her dress on and continues staring at her naked body.

I stood trembling, uncertain...

"Chris, please go away." He didn't seem to hear. He only stared. I blushed all over and felt perspiration under my arms, and a funny pounding began in my pulse...ashamed of what I had now, and quickly I reached to pick up the dress I'd just taken off. Behind that I would shield myself, and I'd tell him to go away. "Don't," he said when I had the dress in my hands. "You shouldn't. . ." I stammered, trembling more. "I know I shouldn't be, but you look so beautiful. It's like I never saw you before. How did you grow so lovely, when I was here all the time?" (Andrews, 1979:223)

Besides non-touching sexual harassment, Cathy also suffers from touching sexual harassment that is a rape committed by Chris. It is exposed when Cathy is sitting in the attic and then gets raped by Chris who pushes her until they both fall onto the floor.

This was all happening while I was up in the attic, sitting on a windowsill, waiting for Chris to reappear...We fell to the floor,

both of us. I tried to fight him off. We wrestled, turning over and over, writhing, silent, a frantic struggle of his strength against mine...It wasn't much of a battle. I had the strong dancer's legs; he had the biceps, the greater weight and height... and he had much more determination than I to use something hot, swollen and demanding, so much it stole reasoning and sanity from him. Somehow we ended up on that old mattress--that filthy, smelly, stained mattress that must have known lovers long before this night. (Andrews, 1979:226&337)

In "The Flowers in the Attic" novel, the reflection of psychological or emotional abuse can also be seen several times. In the "Flowers in the Attic" novel, Cathy is psychologically or emotionally abused by her grandmother and her mother in several forms of psychological or emotional abuse such as verbal abuse, terror, ignorance, rejection and isolation. The first event showing that Cathy gets psychological or emotional abuse is when she is verbally abused by her grandmother. Cathy's grandmother verbally abused her by saying that she is a child born by an evil mother who will always become an evil.

"And, as if that wasn't enough, they had to have children--four of them! Children spawned from the Devil! Evil from the moment of conception!"

My eyes bulged at the sight of those pitiful welts on the creamy tender flesh that our father had handled with so much love and gentleness. I floundered in a maelstrom of uncertainty, aching inside, not knowing who or what I was... That night I no longer believed that God was the perfect judge. So, in a way, I lost God too. (Andrews, 1979:87)

The verbal abuse also happens when Cathy collides with her grandmother as she races down the attic stairs to get some water as ordered by her elder sibling, Chris. Knowing that Cathy is taking her elder brother's order, her grandmother becomes angry and calls Cathy a "fool".

One September afternoon I raced down the attic stairs in a terrible hurry to reach the bathroom--and I collided smack into the grandmother!..."Watch where you're going, girl!" she snapped.

"Why are you in such a hurry?" "Chris is painting the most beautiful landscape," I breathlessly explained..."He's painting, and he asked if I'd mind fetching him fresh water, and I wasn't doing anything but watching, and the twins would spill the water." "Fool! Never wait on a man Make him wait on himself. (Andrews, 1979:135&136)

Another form of psychological or emotional abuse that is reflected in the "Flowers in the Attic" novel is terror. The reflection of terror in this novel happens when Cathy is ordered by her grandmother for not using the bathroom together with her opposite sex siblings. Cathy then is threatened by her grandmother by saying that she will receive punishment from God if she breaks any of her grandmother's rules

*"Girls and boys are never to use the bathroom together."
I felt a hot blush stain my cheeks! What kind of kids did she think we were? Next we heard something for the first time...
"And remember, children, God sees everything! God will see what evil you do behind my back! And god will be the one to punish when I don't!" (Andrews, 1979:53)*

Another form of psychological or emotional abuse that is reflected in the "Flowers in the Attic" novel is rejection. In this novel, Cathy is rejected by her grandmother when she says her Christmas greeting and hands in her hand-made present. Cathy's grandmother rejects Cathy's Christmas greeting and present by not saying a word and stalking out of the room.

*It was the grandmother. She came in quietly, with the picnic basket... She didn't greet us with "Merry Christmas," nor did she say good morning, nor even smile...Trembling, apprehensive, I waited to time my approach so her hands would be empty.
I wanted to greet her in the proper way and say...*

"Merry Christmas, we hope you like this gift." We all worked on it, even Cory and Carrie, and you can keep it so when we're gone, you'll know we did try, we did." Without a word she stalked out of the door, slammed it hard, then locked it from the other side. I was left in the middle of the room. (Andrews, 1979:173&175)

Another form of psychological or emotional abuse that is reflected in the novel "Flowers in the Attic" is isolation. Cathy is isolated in the room by her grandmother and she will only be freed when her grandfather dies.

...she began like a drill sergeant...

"When your mother and I leave this room tonight, I will close and lock the door behind me". "Until the day your grandfather dies, you are here, but you don't really exist. Oh, God! My eyes flashed to Momma. This couldn't be true!...Panic filled me....And we were alone. Locked in. all the lights were turned off. (Andrews, 1979:45&48)

Cathy is also psychologically and emotionally abused by her mother. In the room, Cathy is verbally abused by her mother when her mother hears Cathy's demand that she should pay more attention to her. Cathy is shouted by her mother to stop talking and is called "a heartless" and "an ungrateful child".

Gaily into our room strode our mother. She wore a beautiful, lightweight suit, with soft gray fur at the cuffs and around the neck of the jacket. "Here I am! you were cared for, weren't you? "Look at us, Momma! Observe our radiant, healthy complexions, just like yours. Look especially long on your two youngest. They don't look frail, don't they? If you can't have pity for Christopher and me, have pity for them." "Stop!" she yelled, "Oh, but you are heartless and ungrateful children," she wailed pitifully..." You attack me viciously, unjustly! Making me feel so guilty, and so ashamed (Andrews, 1979:272-280)

Another form of psychological or emotional abuse that is reflected in the "Flowers in the Attic" novel is

ignorance. When Cathy expresses her shocked feeling to hear that her mother says she is not thankful to her, she is ignored by her mother who decides to leave her. Before Cathy's mother leaves the room, she also warns Cathy that she will not come and visit her until Cathy treats her with love and respects her.

My emotions were straightforward, with no indecision. I smoldered with rage...

Momma raised her head regally high and turned toward the door...she wasn't staying to watch our reactions.

"When you have thought about the pain you have given me today, and when you can treat me with love and respect again, then I will come back. Not before."

So she came. So she went (Andrews, 1979:281&282)

In the "Flowers in the Attic" novel, the reflection of neglect can also be seen in many forms including physical, medical and environment neglect. In the "Flowers in the Attic" novel, Cathy is physically neglected by her grandmother. The first event showing that Cathy gets physical neglect is when she is prohibited from eating for two weeks by her grandmother. Cathy's grandmother also physically neglects her by not providing Cathy with clean linens, towels, soap and toothpaste.

Our grandmother walked into the room, towering like a tree; and she bore not a whip, but a huge pair of scissors..."Sit down, girl!" she snapped. "I am going to cut off your hair to the scalp..."My worst fear! I'd rather be whipped!...I was paralyzed by the very threat of those long, shiny scissors..."Your hair, or none of you will eat for a week," she said to me..."And if you lock yourself in the bathroom, or hide yourself in the attic, then not one of you will eat for two weeks!"She left us, locked us in, left us in a quandary. (Andrews, 1979:226 & 227)

And the morning came...without the grandmother...without food. The hungry days passed by endlessly, miserably. She didn't bring us food, or milk or clean linens, or towels or even the soap and toothpaste we had run out of. (Andrews, 1979:235&236)

Not only is Cathy physically neglected by her grandmother, she is also physically neglected by her mother. The reflection of physical neglect that is perpetrated by Cathy's mother can be seen when Cathy is provided by her mother, clothes which do not fit in to her size.

I glared at the beautiful clothes meant for me. A blue velvet dress, such as should be worn to a party. I jumped to my feet, ran to the far side of the room, turned my back, and tried on my new clothes...But try as I would, the zipper wouldn't close in back when it reached my bust. She was buying me little-girl dresses--silly, sweet little-girl garments that screamed out she didn't see! I threw those three dresses down on the floor and stomped on them, crushing the blue velvet so it could never be returned to the store. (Andrews, 1979:285)

Another form of physical neglect that is reflected in the "Flowers in the Attic" novel is shown when Cathy's mother fails to provide Cathy with an adequate supervision. In the room, Cathy has to find a way to entertain herself even without the presence of her mother who has left her for two days. At night, Cathy has terrible nightmares that her grandmother is abusing her.

Our mother didn't visit us that day, nor had she visited us the day before, but we'd found a way to cheer ourselves...despite the absence of a mother grown very negligent, we all went to bed more hopefully that night. Into my bright dreams crept something dark and terrifying...With my eyes closed, I saw the grandmother steal into the bedroom, and thinking me asleep, she shaved off all my hair! I screamed but she didn't hear me--nobody heard me. She took a long and shiny knife and sliced off my breasts and fed them into Chris's mouth. (Andrews, 1979:310)

Another form of neglect that is reflected in the "Flowers in the Attic novel" is medical neglect which is suffered by Cathy's younger siblings. In the novel, medical neglect is committed by Cathy's mother who fails to

provide her sick children with an immediate medical response. Cathy's mother does not take her sick children to a hospital because she is forbidden by Cathy's grandmother to do so.

The very next day, Cory came down with a severe cold "Cathy, where is my momma, my real momma?" Oh, how he wanted his mother. One morning Momma rushed in carrying a big thermos of orange juice she had just squeezed.

"Oh, God!" she cried out in distress. "One hundred three-point-six. I have to take them to a doctor, a hospital!"

The grandmother had no patience for those who lost control and made waves. "Don't be ridiculous, Corrine. All children run high fevers when they are sick. (Andrews, 1979:160-162)

As the grandmother predicted, the twins recovered. Not in nine days. . . in nineteen days. Only bed rest, aspirins, and fluids did the trick—no prescriptions from a doctor to help them back to health more quickly. If they cried and wanted Momma, as they incessantly did, Chris and I acted as mother and father and did what we could to soothe them with soft lullabies. (Andrews, 1979:162&163)

Cathy also gets an environment neglect by her grandmother. In the "Flowers in the Attic" novel, the reflection of environment neglect can be seen when Cathy is provided by her grandmother an inappropriate place, the attic, where she can play and run with less noisy sound. When Cathy goes up and explores the attic, she finds the attic huge, dirty, and the air of the attic is not so clear. It also has an extremely bad smells. Not only that, the attic is crowded with old things, and lots of insects and rodents that makes Cathy feel uneasy in the attic.

Then she spun around to leave... but no, she headed towards the closet..."Children...Up in the attic there is ample space for you to run and play...Before ten, the maids will be on the second floor doing their morning chores...Therefore, always be conscious you can be heard below if you are too noisy." "In this

house, we make our own rules, and execute the deserved punishment." (Andrews, 1979:54)

We were, of course, already tired of that room and very eager to explore the outer confines of our limited domain. And there it was! Attics we'd seen before, who hasn't? but never such an attic as this one! Huge, dim, dirty, dusty, this attic stretched for miles...the air was not clear, but murky; it had an odor, an unpleasant odor of decay, of old rotting things. But it was so hot! So stifling! So stuffy! Already my lungs seemed clogged with dirt air and dust and stale air. Not only that spider webs laced slithering things rambled about in the floor or up the walls. Though I didn't see any. I thought of rats and mice. (Andrews, 1979:62-67)

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis above, now I come to the conclusion as follows. First, the main character is Cathy because of her intensity in building the whole story. Second, the social setting describes the child abuse, such as physical abuse, psychological abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect. Third, the novel "**Flowers in the Attic**" described the reflection 20th century child abuse in America.

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