# THE PORTRAYAL OF SEXUAL ABUSE IN KATE ELIZABETH'S *MY DARK* VANESSA: A RADICAL FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE

THESIS

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

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## THE PORTRAYAL OF SEXUAL ABUSE IN KATE ELIZABETH'S *MY DARK* VANESSA: A RADICAL FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE

### THESIS

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## UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM MALANG

2021

# STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP

I state that the thesis entitled "The Portrayal of Sexual Abuse in Kate Elizabeth's *My Dark Vanessa*: A Radical Feminist Perspective" is my original work. I do not include any materials previously written or published by another person, except those cited as references and written in the bibliography. Hereby, if there is any objection or claim, I am the only person who is responsible for that.

#### Malang, May 19, 2021

The researcher



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## ΜΟΤΤΟ

Life is like riding a bicycle, to keep your balance you must keep moving.

(Albert Enstein)

## DEDICATION

This thesis is proudly dedicated to my beloved parents who always pray and support me, Alimin and Fitria, also my beloved brother, Moch. Nur Khotim Alimin.

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First of all, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Allah SWT, The Beneficent and the Merciful. By Allah's guidance and blessing, the researcher can complete this thesis entitled "The Portrayal of Sexual Abuse in Kate Elizabeth's *My Dark Vanessa*: A Radical Feminist Perspective" Also, Sholawat and Salam are always extended to prophet Muhammad SAW, who has guided the people to the right path of Islam.

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Finally, 1 welcome any criticisms and suggestions from readers for the betterment my thesis. Hopefully, this thesis will give advantages to all people.

Alhamdulillahirabbil'Alamin

Malang, May 19, 2021

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#### ABSTRACT

## Furada, Farimatul. 2021. The Portrayal of Sexual Abuse in Kate Elizabeth's My Dark Vanessa: Radical Feminist Perspective. Thesis (Skripsi). Malang: English Literature Department, Faculty of Humanities, State Islamic University of Malang

Supervisor: Agung Wiranata Kusuma, M.A.

Definition of Keys Terms: Sexual Abuse, Radical feminist criticism

Sexual abuse is a serious case which mostly targeting women to be a victim. Sexual abuse is caused by many factors; one of them is caused by the woman's physical weakness. This case is recognized as a social problem by women's rights movements which are called feminist. They refuse to be silent, reclaiming the women's story. Women embark and volunteer themselves for women's rights. The novel entitled *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth has represented the struggle of women against sexual abuse. Due to those reasons, conducting this research is important, because it gives awareness how a woman should behave against the sexual abuse which happens in society.

In this study, the researcher analyzed the types of sexual abuse which faced by Vanessa and other victim in the novel *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell. Next, the researcher analyzed Vanessa and other victim struggle against the sexual abuse. The analysis of this literary work uses feminist literary criticism as a research design. The data in this study are taken from the novel *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth. The researcher collects the data, classifies them into the appropriate problem formulations, and analyzes using feminist literary criticism by Kate Millet and Kathrin Patricelli's theory about types of abuse.

In the study, the researcher found that there are three types of sexual abuse which faced by Vanessa and other victims in the novel *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell. Those are rape, fondling and exposure. Other victims mostly experienced fondling action. Next, the researcher found Vanessa and other victim struggle against the sexual abuse. First struggle is the victim shows rejection against the sexual abuse action. Second struggle is posting sexual abuse experience through social media. Those struggles attract public attention and finally opened an investigation for their sexual abuse cases.

#### مستخلص البحث

فرادى، فريمةل. ٢٠٢١. تصوير الاعتداء الجنسي في كيت إليز ابيث فانيسا الظلام: وجهة نظر نسوية راديكالية. أطروحة. .مالانج: الأدب الإنجليزي ، كلية العلوم الإنسانية ، جامعة مولانا مالك إبر اهيم الحكومية الإسلامية في مالانج

المشرف: اغوع ويرانتا كوسوما، الماجستير

الكلمات المفتاحية: الاعتداء الجنسي ، النقد النسوي الراديكالي

عدم المساواة بين الجنسين هي الخلفية لظهور الحركات التي تشير إلى نضالات المرأة ، وعدم المساواة الذي تعاني منه المرأة ليس فقط في الشؤون المنزلية ، ولكن أيضا في التوظيف والتعليم وفي مجال الحياة الجنسية. الاضطهاد الذي يمارسه الرجال يجعل المرأة تدرك أنه يجب أن يكون هناك مكانة متساوية في المجتمع. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى فحص أنواع .الاضطهاد في شكل التحرش الجنسي ضد المرأة في رواية بعنوان فانيسا الظلام من تأليف كيت إليزابيث

أهداف هذه الدراسة هي: 1) التعرف على أنواع التحرش الجنسي التي تعرضت لها فانيسا في فيلم فانيسا الظلام الخاص بكيت إليز ابيث وفقًا لنظرية كاثرين باتريشيلي "نوع الإساءة". و 2) لتحديد النضال الذي قامت به فانيسا لتحرير نفسها من التحرش الجنسي الذي تعرضت له .. تحليل هذا العمل الأدبي يستخدم النقد الأدبي النسوي كتصميم بحثي. . البيانات الواردة في هذه الدر اسة مأخوذة من رواية فانيسا الظلام من تأليف كيت إليز ابيث. يقوم المؤلف بجمع البيانات من خلال قراءتها بشكل متكرر ، والبحث عن البيانات التي تتوافق مع أهداف البحث. ثم يتم تصنيف البيانات إلى صيغ مشكلة مناسبة . وتحليلها باستخدام النقد الأدبي النسوي ونظرية كاثرين باتريشيلي حول نوع الإساءة

تشير نتائج هذه الدراسة إلى أنه في رواية فانيسا الظلام التي كتبها كيت إليز ابيث ، تم العثور على أنواع التحرش الجنسي التي تعرضت لها فانيسا بصفتها الشخصية الرئيسية في الرواية. كانت أنواع التحرش الجنسي التي تم العثور عليها هي الاغتصاب ، وملامسة الأعضاء التناسلية ، وكذلك التعرض الجنسي. وبالإضافة إلى ذلك ، تجد صاحبة البلاغ محاولات عديدة من قبل الشخصية الرئيسية "فانيسا" لتحرير نفسها من التحرش الجنسي. بعض هذه الجهود تجرؤ على رفض التعرض للتحرش الجنسي ، والبحث عن معلومات حول الضحايا الآخرين الذين تعرضوا للتحرش ، وكتابة مقالات تتعلق . بتجارب التحرش الجنسي التي تعرضت لها

#### ABSTRAK

## Furada, Farimatul. 2021. The Portrayal of Sexual Abuse in Kate Elizabeth's My Dark Vanessa: Radical Feminist Perspective. Skripsi. Malang: Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Humaniora, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang.

Supervisor: Agung Wiranata Kusuma, M.A.

Kata Kunci: Sexual Abuse, Radical feminist criticism

Pelecehan seksual adalah kasus yang serius yang kebanyakan menargetkan perempuan sebagai korban. Pelecehan seksual disebabkan oleh banyak faktor; salah satunya disebabkan oleh kelemahan fisik wanita. Kasus ini diakui sebagai masalah sosial oleh gerakan hak-hak perempuan yang disebut sebagai feminis. Mereka menolak untuk diam, merebut kembali kisah perempuan. Perempuan memulai dan menjadi sukarelawan untuk hak-hak perempuan. Novel berjudul *My Dark Vanessa* karya Kate Elizabeth telah merepresentasikan perjuangan perempuan melawan pelecehan seksual. Oleh karena itu, penelitian ini penting dilakukan, karena memberikan kesadaran bagaimana seharusnya perempuan bersikap terhadap pelecehan seksual yang terjadi di masyarakat.

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah: 1) untuk mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis pelecehan seksual yang dialami Vanessa dan korban lain dalam *My Dark Vanessa* karya Kate Elizabeth sesuai dengan teory dari Kathrin Patricelli "type of abuse". Dan 2) untuk mengidentifikasi perjuangan yang telah dilakukan oleh Vanessa dan korban lainnya untuk membebaskan dirinya dari pelecehan seksual yang telah dialaminya Analisis karya sastra ini menggunakan kritik sastra feminis sebagai desain penelitian. . Data dalam penelitian ini diambil dari novel *My Dark Vanessa* karya Kate Elizabeth. Penulis mengumpulkan data, mencari data yang sesuai dengan tujuan penelitian, dan di klasifikan pada rumusan masalah yang sesuai dan di analisa menggunakan kritik sastra feminis dan teori *type of abuse* milik Kathrin Patricelli.

Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa dalam novel *My Dark Vanessa* karya Kate Elizabeth telah ditemukan jenis-jenis pelecehan seksual yang dialami oleh Vanessa sebagai karakter utama pada novel tersebut. Jenis-jenis pelecehan seksual yang ditemukan adalah pemerkosaan, meraba-raba bagian-bagian pribadi dan juga paparan seksual. Selain itu, penulis juga menemukan beberapa usaha yang dilakukan oleh Vanessa dan korban lain untuk membebaskan diri dari pelecehan seksual tersebut. Beberapa usaha tersebut adalah 1) berani menolak untuk dilecehkan secara seksual, 2) mengunggah pengalaman pelecehan seksual yang telah dialami di social media yang akhirnya mendapat perhatian public dan dibukanya investigasi untuk kasus tersebut.

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#### **CHAPTER I**

#### INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, problems of the study, objectives of the study, scope and limitation, significance of the study, definition of key terms, previous study, and research method. The research method includes research design, data sources, data collection, and data analysis.

#### A. Background of the Study

The women's struggle has become a general term in cases of gender inequality. Along with gender inequality, the position of women becomes a chance for men to do the oppression against them. Nowadays, the oppression against women has become a concern for woman's movements. The kinds of oppression mostly happen within their environments (family, school, workplace, etc), which are seen as a social problem, and this accident is recognized by the women's rights movement which is called Feminist (Gordon: 2002). Realizing this situation, they refuse to be silent, reclaiming the women's story. Feminists embark and volunteer themselves for women's rights. Feminists create a thought called feminism which demonstrates contemporary woman issues, such as a gender unfairness division and women are considered as mothers who shouldn't work (Primorac: 1998). Feminism grows through the feminist's understanding of the woman's experience and their relation to men. Based on the historical process, the previous thought causes the emergence of dissatisfaction against feminist thought. This condition causes the rise of radical feminism, which focuses on the body and sexuality against women. They believe that the oppression against women occurs because of the woman's body and the male domination against women (Nadya, 2019). Furthermore, the woman struggle issue has been discussed in many kinds of research. As known that nowadays the information about the oppression against women has been widely spread through social media. The targets of these motives are women and children, these accidents mostly happen in places around us, such as home, school, and workplace, etc. These oppressions are in the form of physical, sexual, and mental/emotional abuse, domestic violence, forced marriage, female genital mutilation. The oppression against women is a serious violation of human rights. Those conditions have negative impacts mentally and physically (Enola, 2012).

All forms of women's oppression are among the root causes the sexual abuse (Pennsylvania coalition against rape, 2020). Sexual abuse is caused by many factors, one of which is caused by the woman's physical weakness. In general opinion, physically and mentally men are stronger than men. This situation becomes a chance for men to do sexual abuse against women, (Gupta, 2020). Patricelli (2005) argued that sexual abuse is a kind of unwanted sexual contact that occurs between the victims and the perpetrator. Such as date rape, inappropriate touching, and molestation. According to Statista Research development (2019), noted that the number of sexual abuse victims in the United States during 2019 reached 406,970 cases. The number of cases had decreased from 652,676 victims which are reported in the previous year.

Such as what has been exposed in the novel *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russel (2020) that the main character's sexual abuse experience is caused by the men's manipulation against her. Sexual abuse happens because of the main character's weakness. At that time, she was just 15 years old and her teacher who became the perpetrator against her was the 40s. This novel mostly exposes how sexual abuse happens in the school environment. Nilufer (2018) argued that school represents a protective factor to boost the mental health of the student, while the school also represents a risk factor that heightens the mental health problem, such as sexual abuse. in the novel *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell portrays how the school environment gives the potential mental health problem, specifically sexual abuse. This novel also exposes the main character's struggle against the sexual abuse which happens to her. Implicitly, this novel explained that the woman tried to ruin society's opinion about "women are weaker than men".

In this study, the researcher analyzes the types of sexual abuse experienced by the main character in the novel *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell (2020). The sexual abuse in the novel is viewed 'Abuse' theory by Kathryn Patricelli. She divides this theory into six parts, those are verbal abuse, physical abuse, emotional/mental abuse, sexual abuse, hate crimes, and neglect. This study will only focus on sexual abuse. The chosen topic is important to be discussed because sexual abuse the most important issue discussed in the novel. The struggle of the main character towards her sexual abuse experience also becomes a concern for the researcher.

The researcher finds several previous studies related to the research. The first study titled "An Analysis on Abuse In Laure Hales Anderson's Novel Speak And Eka Kurniawan's Novel Cantik Itu Luka: A Comparative Literature Analysis" by Meity Rahayu (2018) focused on analyzing the types of abuse faced by the main character within the two novels and the impacts of the abuse experience. The second previous study is conducted by Kris Anindita Wicaksono (2013) titled "Sexual Abuse in Laurie Hales Anderson's Speak: A Feminist Perspective". He analyzes how sexual abuse affects the victim's life and gives some negative impacts. The last previous study is conducted by Lawrence Ratna (2020) titled "Vladimir Nabokov's Lolita: The Representation and The Reality Re-Examining Lolita In The Light of Research into Sexual Abuse". She focuses on the impacts of sexual abuse and exposes how the relationship between sexual abuse in literary work and reality.

From those previous studies, the researcher can conclude that all previous studies which are conducted just focus on the impact of the sexual abuse faced by the victims. This information inspires the researcher to conduct the study on the novel *My Dark Vanessa* and do the analysis against the type of sexual abuse based on Kathryn

Patricelli's theory 'Types of abuse' and their struggle against the sexual abuse experience which interpreted by using the radical literary feminist criticism.

#### **B.** Problems of the study

- 1. What are the types of sexual abuse experienced by Vanessa and other victims in *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell?
- How does Vanessa and other victims struggle against sexual abuse in *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell?

#### C. Objectives of the study

- To identify the types of sexual abuse experienced by Vanessa and other victim in *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell
- 2. To identify the way Vanessa and other victims struggle against the sexual abuse in *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell

#### **D.** Scope and Limitation

This study focuses to identify the types of sexual abuse and Vanessa and other victims struggle against those kinds of sexual abuse in the novel *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell. The author uses the concept of abuse theory by Kathryn Patricelli to analyze the novel. This research also uses by literary feminist perspective, specifically the radical feminist perspective by Kate Millet.

#### E. Significance of the study

The significance of the study is expected to make the reader realize the existence of the struggle of the woman towards the sexual abuse which is caused by male domination. Theoretically, the researcher aims to enrich the data based on the literary criticism used, specifically radical feminist literary criticism. This study also uses Kathryn Patricelli's theory about "Abuse". The researcher expects this study can be useful for the reader and practically this study will give more information for the future researcher who also conducted the study with the same object or theory.

#### F. Previous studies

There are several previous studies related to the research. The first previous study is conducted by Meity Rahayu (2018) titled "*An Analysis on Abuse in Laure Hales Anderson's Novel Speak and Eka Kurniawan's Novel Cantik Itu Luka: A Comparative Literature Analysis*". The objectives of the study are to find out the type and impact of abuse, and the differences and similarities between the two novels. This study uses the type of abuse theory by Kathryn Patricelli, this theory divides abuse into six types. This study uses two types of them, sexual abuse and physical abuse. Based on the research, the two novels have differences and similarities against the types of abuse and the impacts faced by each main character of the novels.

The second previous study is conducted by Kris Anindita Wicaksono (2013) titled "Sexual Abuse in Laurie Hales Anderson's Speak: A Feminist Perspective". The objectives of the research are to find out how sexual abuse affects Melinda and

the ways the main character cope with the trauma caused by the sexual abuse. This study uses post-traumatic stress disorder by Andreasen and radical feminist literary criticism to reach the objectives of the study. Based on the research, it found that the main character faces physiological and emotional impact after the sexual abuse accident. The main character passes her problem with facing her fear, her effort also shown by her self-expression.

The last previous study is conducted by Lawrence Ratna (2020) titled "Vladimir Nabokov's Lolita: The Representation and The Reality Re-Examining Lolita In The Light of Research into Sexual Abuse". The objectives of the study are to find out the social and cultural impacts, and the relationship between the sexual abuses in Lolita and the reality. This study uses Freud about trauma and Kinsey's theory about sexual behavior in the human male. Based on the research, she finds the process of how sexual abuse in Lolita affects through social and culture. Specifically, the researcher exposes the relationship between the novel fictions "Lolita" with the reality of sexual abuse.

Based on some previous studies above, the researcher finds some information. The first study focuses on analyzing the types of abuse faced by the main character within the two novels and the impacts of the abuse experience. The second previous study focused on analyzing how sexual abuse affects the main character's life and the impact suffered by the main character. The last previous study focuses on the impacts of sexual abuse and exposes how the relationship between sexual abuse in literary work and the reality. The researcher concludes that all previous studies conducted focus on the impact of the sexual abuse faced by the victims. This information inspires the researcher to conduct the study on the novel *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russel by using Kate Millet's theory about radical feminist literary criticism and Kathryn Patricelli's 'abuse' theory. The researcher focuses on the type of sexual abuse experienced by Vanessa and her struggle against sexual abuse.

#### G. Definition of Key Terms

This study has several key terms to define, to avoid the readers' misunderstanding. The researcher put some key terms as follows:

- 1. Radical feminist literary criticism: perspective within feminism which defines as opposes male domination. Radical feminist also believes that patriarchy deals with the oppression and victimization against women (Thompson, 2001).
- Sexual abuse: any sort of unwanted sexual contact between victim and abuser. There are some types of sexual abuse, such as rape, fondling, exposure, incest, inappropriate touching (with or without intercourse), and molestation (Patricelli, 2005).

#### H. Research Methodology

Research methodology presents the research design, data source, data collection, and data analysis.

#### 1. Research Design

This study is designed as literary criticism. By conducting this study, the researcher tries to explain her interpretation of Kate Elizabeth Russell's *My Dark Vanessa* from feminist perspective. The researcher uses feminist literary theory, specifically radical feminist by Kate Millet. This study also analyzes the types of sexual abuse according to abuse theory by Kathrin Patricelli. The theory helps the researcher to find out the types of sexual abuse which faced by Vanessa and other victims in the novel *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell.

#### 2. Data Sources

Conducting research is a kind of activity that needs relevant data. Data is the most important thing in doing research. Having data will help the researcher to reach the objectives of the study. The selected data should be relevant and interconnected with the arrangement of research questions. The researcher takes the data from the novel entitled *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell this novel consists of 325 pages, 17 chapters and was published by Harper Collins publisher. The data are in the form of a monologue, dialogue, and expressions used by the characters. Those data are in the form of words, phrases, and sentences.

#### 3. Data Collection

In collecting the data, the researcher takes some steps as follows: the first step is the researcher reads the novel, in order to know the general information of the novel and understand the whole story. Then the researcher searches and finds the required data to support the analysis. Next, the data are classified based on each research question of the study to reach the objectives of the study. So, the data are related to the types of sexual abuse experienced by Vanessa and her struggle against sexual abuse.

#### 4. Data Analysis

In the process of analysis, the data of the research are taken from the main sources of the study, a novel titled *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell. There are two steps to analyze the data. In the first step, the researcher identifies the types of sexual abuse in *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell which are experienced by Vanessa and other victims according to Kathryn Patricelli's 'Abuse' theory. In the second step of the research, the researcher identifies Vanessa and other victims struggle against the sexual abuse faced according to radical feminist literary criticism.

#### **CHAPTER II**

#### **REVIEW RELATED LITERATURE**

The researcher reviews several theories which are relevant to the study in the second chapter. Women in literature, feminism, feminist literary criticism, radical feminism, and abuse are all discussed in this section.

#### A. Woman in Literature

Women have been widely discussed in the literature. Women become one of the objects and the themes of most literary works. But, many women figures are marginalized, these conditions cause women victimization in various labels and stigmas imposed on them (Syiaruddin, 2019). Finally, it emerges the term of gender which becomes a social construct between men and women. In literature, it is known as feminist literary criticism. A feminist perspective has been commonly used to show that there is dominant hegemony which gives negative impacts on women (Micarina, 2015).

Based on the book titled '*Letter for Literary Ladies*' by Maria Edgworth (1975) explained that women in literature are many more than a few years ago. They form a social class, occupy public space, and have gained a degree of significance and acceptable personality. Meanwhile, the advance of publishing and technology has made the literature becomes easily accessible. It can be concluded that the societal

attitudes towards women have reformed, enabling women to achieve their education and careers.

In the nineteenth-century, patronizing men authors outnumber women authors, who believe that women lack sufficient skills to produce worthy literary works. However, the beginning of the twentieth century brings significant changes in economics and politics, which allows women to have a better education and the chance to break away from household fiction (Kathrin, 2015). Several social reforms are led by the women movement which demands equal rights between men and women served as a source of inspiration for their writing. They want to use literature to effect necessary changes in culture, such as accepting women's right to democracy, independence, and self-expressions Thompson (1999) as cited in Kathrin (2015).

#### **B.** Feminism

The spreading of feminism begins at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and it becomes a global movement in the 20<sup>th</sup> century as a woman worldwide. The use of the word *feminist* is used in the first congress which is held in Paris in 1982. Feminism focuses on the multiple connections which existed between feminist across the world and illuminate the transnational aspect of their cooperation (Brustein, 2012). The existence of feminism aims to reach equal rights between men and women. Such as liberate women from the domestic environment or the family ties. In the wider explanation, the rise of feminism is for refusing everything, such as marginalization, subordination, and humiliation from the dominant culture (Gamberling, 2014). Feminism defines to improve the position of women. According to Jackson and Jones (1998), men's domination is the main thought of feminism which is stems from a special public organization, economy, and politics.

According to Burket and Brunell (2017), as cited in Mandey (2019), women are prohibited to do a business without male representation, such as father, brother, husband, or legal agent. Without permission from their husbands, married women have no right to control their children. Women often have little or no access to education and are banned from all occupations. Based on the book titled 'a vindication of the rights of Women' by Marry Wollstonecraft (1792) stated that 'the come has come to influence a revolution through women, the time has come to take back the loss of women's rights. Thus, the rise of feminism intends to reach the same life between men and women, the same responsibilities, and experiencing the same things between them.

In a further development, feminism becomes wider and divides itself into several waves. According to Maggie Humm and Rebecca Walker (1969) as cited in Llewellyn (2015), explained that feminism is divided into three waves, the first wave refers to women's suffrage movements which occur in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup>. The second wave which occurs in the 1960s and 1970s refers to the women's liberation movement's ideas and action. The third wave dates from the 1990s to the present, it is a response to second-wave feminism. It takes several disciplines including feminist geography, feminist history, and feminist literary criticism. Throughout the year, several sub-movements of feminist ideology have emerged. Liberal feminism, Marxist feminism, radical feminism, socialist feminism, and psychoanalytic feminism are some major sub-types mentioned.

#### C. Feminist Literary Criticism

Over the last thirty-five years, feminism has had a significant impact on literary criticism. Literary criticism which focuses on feminism is called as Feminist literary criticism; this term aims to reinterpret literature from a woman's point of view. Since the rise of woman movements in the United States and Europe during the Civil Rights campaigns of the 1960s, feminist literary criticism is presented for the first time (Plain & Sellers, 2007). Therefore, feminist literary criticism rises as a branch of sociology of literature which begins with woman's desire to analyze literary works of women author in the past and to show that the image of woman from man author often displays women repressed, misinterpreted, and trivialized by the patriarchal culture (Djajanegara, 2003).

This concept seeks to describe male domination against a woman's body by discovering the social, political, economic, and psychological services implanted within literature (Guo, 2018). Feminist literary criticism has four focuses: first, to investigate, discover and measure the woman author which clearly expresses the patriarchal culture. Second, examine literary works using the feminist approach.

Third, express woman and man ideology. Fourth, discover gynocritic aspects (understand feminist author reflects the literary works) (Endraswara, 2003). In this case, the researcher uses the second focus of feminist literary criticism which examines literary works.

Additionally, feminist literary criticism defines as a thought and a tool to analyze literary works which aim to portray the role and the position between men and women in the social order (Carter, 2006). Therefore, Feminist literary criticism exists to encounter, fight back and eventually remove the patriarchal traditions and ideology which portrays the power and the domination of men toward the existence of woman whether in public or private context as it exists in literary works (Idris, 2009).

#### **D.** Radical Feminism

The word *radical* means *down to the roots* or back to the root of the problem. Radical feminism emerges in the mid-1970s which is formed to explore the root of causes the emergence of imbalances in power between women and men (Wardatun, 2006). Radical feminism is called as second-wave feminism. Its appearance is indicated by Simone de Beauvoir's book titled 'The Second Sex' in France. The book analyzes the concept of gender and sex, based on the struggle categorization. Historically, radical feminism rises as a reaction to the cultural sexism or social domination based on sex in the 1960s, in terms of sexual violence and the pornography industry (Asrofah, 2020).

Radical feminism fights against women's oppression and exploitation, genderbiased social life especially sexuality issues, violence, and cultural representation against women (Lorber, 2001). Radical feminism defines as the lens of sex/gender and sexuality. Biology, power, patriarchy, domination, and hierarchy are the main concepts of radical feminism. Radical feminism believes that women's biology is closely related to their operation (Handayani, 2018). Radical feminism sues all the systems which are detrimental for women, such as the patriarchal system. The rise of radical feminism reveals the fact that men are a problem for women. The woman's body becomes the main object of men's oppression, specifically women's reproductive function (Justitia, 2007).

Radical feminism believes that gender inequality is caused by the biological differences between men and women. It means women feel exploited by men in biological matters, for example the roles of women are pregnancy and motherhood (keep their children). Because of this, radical feminism often sues the system which always causes oppression against women. They believe that all the system causes the rise of male domination (Mus, 2018). Responding to the total of men's domination against women, radical feminist tries to liberate womanhood in different devaluation, covering the wider society which focuses on the creative force inherent in woman's biology (Parrish, 1995).

#### E. Abuse

Abuse is a term used to describe a situation in which two things have a negative relationship. When one thing misuses or mistreats another, it is said as an abusive relationship. The terms "misuses" and "mistreats" are the key in this description, from those important words imply that there is a standard which explained how thing can be called as misuses and mistreats (Patricelli, 2013). Abuse action happens because one person is intended to control another and it goes far beyond physical injury. There are some types of abuse including verbal abuse, physical abuse, mental/emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglects, and hates crimes (Patricelli, 2005).

- 1. Verbal Abuse happens when a person criticizes another person with inappropriate words. It also includes 'scorn' and naming which aims to make the victim believe that they are unworthy and lack abilities or talents. Verbal abuse is dangerous, it not always easy to identify as an abusive action. As a result of this action, the victim's self-esteem and self-respect are severely damaged. Since they feel they do not deserve to do so, damaged victims will pass up opportunities to enrich their lives.
- 2. Physical Abuse happens when someone uses physical pain or threats of physical abuse which aim to frighten the victim. Actual physical abuse includes slaps or shoves, as well as hitting, punching, kicking, hair pulling, scratching, and physical damage in some cases which need hospitalization. In certain cases of

physical abuse, the victim dies because of the injuries suffered while being abused.

- **3.** Mental/Emotional Abuse is also called physiological abuse is characterized by intense emotional manipulation which intended to compel the victim to comply with the abuser's wishes. Emotional abuse is used to manipulate the victim's emotions to achieve compliance and avoid rejection. On the other hand, physiological abuse may occur when one victim is forced to see another victim being abused in some way (verbally, physically, or sexually). Emotional abuse manifests serious symptoms (physiological side effects).
- 4. Sexual Abuse occurs when adults or children are objected to inappropriate sexual contact. Sexual abuse also happens when one person agreed to a certain level of sexual activity and another level is imposed on the victim without prior explicit consent. This action is often combined with physical abuse and emotional abuse.
- 5. Neglects happen when a person fails to accomplish the basic needs of the victim that he/she is responsible for. Food, shelter, clothing, hygiene, love, or sufficient and necessary treatments are all the basic needs. For example neglect happens when parents working fail to adequately care for their children. It is still neglected when parents fail to fulfill the needs of their children. This condition mostly happens to children who are not properly cared by their parents.
- 6. Hates Crimes includes physical, verbal, emotional or sexual abuse against an individual or group based on their characteristic, such as sexual affiliations or skin color. Hate crime is described as a crime motivated by racism, bias,

prejudice, race, national religion, ethnicity, disability status, gender, sexual orientation, or another gender identity. For example attacks on gays and transgender are common because their sexuality non-mainstream and threatening.

#### F. Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is defined as an act of forcing others to do something sexually they do not want to do. Sexual abuse also refers to behavior that affects people's abilities to control their sexual activity (Makarim: 2020). Abuse action happens because one person is intended to control another and it goes far beyond the physical injury. Sexual abuse sexual act happens through physical and non-physical contact against the victim's private parts. Several cases of sexual abuse are often ignored, in fact, sexual abuse cases cannot be tolerated. As a result, many victims of sexual abuse suffered prolonged trauma (Makarim, 2020).

The target of sexual abuse is weak women, passive and less assertive. About 36 percent of women in the world have experienced physical or intimate sexual abuse (Lumbantobing, 2017). Those cases put women in a dangerous situation and become easy targets for unfair treatment. Marginalization, stereotypes, and gender discrimination are the situations often faced by women. Thus, the forms of sexual abuse are motivated by sexual desire which becomes a danger that threatens women (Sendy, 2017). Generally, sexual abuse can take place anywhere, at work, at university, on the street, in a shop, in a club, at the airport, or while using public

transportation, even at home. In reality, sexual abuse is an unwanted sexual concern that can occur in public places, as well as in private spaces (Sadarjoen, 2005).

Yatimin (2003) explained that the perpetrator does sexual abuse is influenced by two main factors, those are internal and external. The internal factor is caused by the mental disorders suffered by the perpetrator, usually, they have abnormal sexual needs and it encourages them to commit crimes. The external factor is influenced by the environment. Such as the spreading of pornographic videos, porn films, and pornographic videos give a big influence on those who see it. The result is there are so many sexual abuse cases that occur in society. Other factor comes from the victim's closest environment, those are family, neighbors, and peers. It is also caused by the disharmony of the family which encourages the father to do sexual abuse towards his daughter.

Sexual abuse tends to cause traumatic impacts, both on the child or adults. Huraerah 2018) explained that sexual abuse gives negative impacts on the victim. Emotionally, the impact of sexual abuse will make them feel depressed (mental shock), afraid (lost trust in others), insecure (feeling of worthlessness), feel guilt and self-blame, shadow incidents where the child got sexual abuse, nightmares, insomnia, dysfunction sexual, suicide desire, unwanted pregnancy and more often being alone, isolating themselves from friends, they have limited feelings (unable to love) running into their delusion of non-interacting with other. The victim will be afraid to hang out with others or even afraid to travel. They tend to not tell their problem to their parents or their closest people, they will be getting bored and less concentrated. Weber and Smith (2010) as cited in Noviana (2015) explained that the long-term impact of sexual abuse is the victim has the potential to be the perpetrator of sexual abuse. The helplessness of the victim faced the sexual abuse act, unconsciously generalized their perception of that action.

Sexual abuse is a serious case that causes trauma to the victims and their families, society's participation is needed to support the victim. Venetia R. Danes (2019) as cited in Fernandez (2019) explained that society's participation to support the victim should be followed by the right of the truth, the right of justice, and the right to recovery. Rezky Panji (2020) as cited in Aliya (2020) explained that there are two main solutions for those who do sexual abuse, those are adjudication and nonadjudication. Adjudication is a court legal process and non-adjudication is the settlement of cases outside the court. Sexual abuse is considered a criminal act, which is suggested to be resolved through the legal process (adjudication). According to Protective Service for Children and Young People Department of Health And Community Service (1993) as cited in Noviana (2015) explained that the existence and the role of the family are very important to help the victims recover themselves from the sexual abuse experience. After the sexual abuse incidents, parents have an opportunity to overcome the victim's feeling about what that happens and adapts to the big changes of themselves. Concerning to the case of sexual abuse, Noviana (2015) explained that there are several types of sexual abuse as follows:

#### a. Rape

Rape is one of the types of sexual abuse, rape occurs when a person engages in sexual intercourse by forcible sexual intercourse upon an unwilling woman. Rape is the type of sexual abuse which involves sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual penetration toward a person without that person's consent. This kind of sexual abuse may be done by a person who has more power over others. Sexual abuse faced occurs because the perpetrator has more power than the victim (Huraerah, 2018). The power can be in the form of a higher position/job. Such as what has happened to Vanessa, her perpetrator is her teacher. Sexual abuse also happens because of the perpetrator's manipulation. Such as make sure the victim doesn't feel hurt.

b. Fondling

Fondling is unwanted sexual contact by groping the victim's chest, genital, thighs, and buttocks. According to the sexual offenses act (2003) as cited in Bates (2017), the elements of the fondling are:

- The perpetrator intentionally touches a victim
- The touching is included as sexual touching
- The victim does not concern about the touching, and the perpetrator does not reasonably believe that the victim consents.

The crown persecution service's guidelines explained that unwanted touching includes any parts of the body, or something else, and can be via clothing (Bates, 2017).

c. Exposure

Exposure is forms of sexual abuse include pressuring the victim to engage with sexual activities. Such as exposure the private parts the victim, displaying pornography to the victim, viewing the victim's genital without physical contact, using a victim to produce pornography, including live streaming sexual abuse (Martin, 1993).

d. Incest

Incest is unwanted sexual contact between family members. Incest is carried out by a partner who has a close family relationship, usually between a father and his daughter, mother, and son, or between siblings or half-siblings. Ethically people cannot have a relationship with or even marry someone who is in blood with them.

e. Molestation

Molestation generally refers to a single or isolated act of sexual assault against victim. Molestation also defines as abusive sexual behavior by one person upon another, including petting, fondling, and exhibitionism. Molestation is only used to describe a sex crime against child (Manly Stewart Finaldi Lawyers, 2021)

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#### G. Women's struggle

The concept of women's struggle emerged in the nineteenth century as a result of gender inequality. Women's struggle is the result of women's motivation to reach women goal to gain equality. There were data on women's effort to fight for their rights as victim of sexual abuse as a result of gender bias. Several such incidents of women from various countries demanding their right to vote followed (Sari & Fitria: 2017).

Women struggle may not be far from the term of feminism. Some women are troubled by the injustice experienced in their lives. According to (Carden, 1974) feminist movement is the much needed solder. Feminism is the natural female reaction to being able of liberating women from the tyranny of their sexual productive roles, both the fundamental biological condition and the sexual class system. Women have to fight and make a movement to end the unfairness happen between men and women.

Women struggle strives to increase women rights, reproductive rights, gender identity, gender inequality, gender roles, political rights, and sexuality, to name a few issues. It is the entire struggle for the liberation of women (Ackelsberg, 2004). In this case, the struggle is a woman's attempt to be free from the violence and to defend her rights and dignity, which are being oppressed due to the injustice culture of her surroundings. As explained by (Asante, 2006) many groups of women struggle for their rights, they struggle for survival or independence of the state.

### **CHAPTER III**

### ANALYSIS

This chapter provides an analysis containing the collected data to answer the problem formulation of the research. As previously explained, this research aims to show the the types of sexual abuse which happens to the victims and the struggle of them to be free from it. Based on the objectives of the research, this research focuses on two research questions as stated in the first chapter. First, the type of sexual abuse happens to the victims in *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell. Then, the second is about victims' struggle against the sexual abuse experienced by them. In this section, the researcher answers those research questions to reach the objectives of the research.

*My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell tells about a fifteen-year-old girl named Vanessa who falls in love with her teacher. Her teacher is forty-two years old named Jacob Strane. However, Vanessa often faces unwanted sexual contact with him. She can't refuse, she was too young at that time. The novel also uncovers some victims who are also being sexually abused by Strane. In the novel, the author tells how Vanessa and other victims face the sexual abuse experienced by them. At the first, all the victims think that Strane falls in love with them, but, they are wrong. Strane is just hungry and his students are the best choice to be his victim. As can be

known that, students are still underage and easy to manipulate. The author also exposes how the victims struggle against the sexual abuse.

# A. Sexual Abuse faced by Vanessa and other victims in *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell

In this section, the researcher analyzes the sexual abuse experienced by the victims based on the abuse theory by Kathrin Patricelli. The researcher finds that this novel portrays several types of sexual abuse, such as fondling, rape, and exposure. The detailed evidence also explained as follows:

## 1. Fondling

In the novel *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell, fondling as the type of sexual abuse seems to be the most common sexual abuse which happens to the victims instead the other sexual abuse types. Fondling in sexual abuse means unwanted sexual touching by groping the private body of the victim, such as the victim's chest, genital, thighs, and buttocks (Noviana: 2015).

Some fondling action found in the novel *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell:

<sup>&</sup>quot;Then Mr. Strane's knee touch my bare tigh, right below the hemline of my skirt. With his eyes still on the poem and the tip his pen following the line. His knee nestles against me at the seminar table. At first I assume he doesn't realize, that he thinks my leg is the desk or the side of the chair. I wait for him to recognize what he's done, to see where his knee drifted and whisper a quick "sorry" but his knee stays pressed into me I try to be polite and inch away." (p.50)

From the first data, fondling action happens in the classroom. As can be seen from the scene that Vanessa tries to tell what she feels at that time, and it shows that Strane intentionally tries to grope Vanessa's thigh. Groping someone's private parts is indicates as fondling, as what Strane did to Vanessa. Because after Strane says sorry about what he is done. He still stays and presses in Vanessa's thigh. At first, Vanessa thinks that Strane doesn't realize what he is doing. But, she was wrong, it is something intentionally done by him to her. Then, Vanessa decides to move away from him. From that fondling action, it shows how Strane as a teacher manipulates his students. The data shows that sexual abuse is caused by the higher position between the victim and the perpetrator, such as Vanessa and his teacher. Strane is arbitrary and tries to manipulate her with what he is done. Vanessa also comes from the certain village of the city, less active and it becomes strane's reason to choose her to be his victim.

Another fondling occurs, along with the following data:

"Watching my face, his fingertips slide up my legs and keep sliding until they brush the crotch of my tights. Reflexively my legs clamp together, trapping his hands. "that was too far, I shake my head" "it's not ok" I say. His hand slips out from under my skirt and he slides like liquid out of his chair. Kneeling before me, he lays his head on my lap and says, "I'm going to ruin you". (p.88)

At this scene, it shows that Vanessa and her teacher have had a close relationship. Strane is managed to manipulate her. The data above shows that Vanessa is groped by Strane. Strane tries to touch her private part. When it happens, Vanessa has showed the rejection against what Strane did to her. Vanessa shakes her head, but Strane doesn't stop. It can be seen that Strane indirectly forces her. He doesn't care about the rejection which is shown by Vanessa. It can be concluded that Vanessa disagrees with a certain level of sexual activity between she and her teacher. Fondling action cannot be stop by her. Strane as her teacher has more power and he can control Vanessa. For an underage girl like Vanessa may think that this action is too far to do. Vanessa loves him, but she never thought that Strane did other levels of sexual activity that she won't do at her age. The third data also shows how Vanessa face sexual abuse in the form of fondling:

"He guides my hand to it, he shows me what he meant. I do it and I try keeping the pace even though my arm is starting to cramp, I can't tell him I'm tired. You can handle a few minutes of this. When he guides my hand away from it, I worry he'll ask me to use my mouth next and I don't want that, I can't do that, but instead he says "do you want me to fuck you?" it's a question, but he isn't really asking." (p.111-112)

From the existed data it's found that further fondling action happens to Vanessa. The second fondling happens in Strane's car. And for the third fondling happens in his house. Vanessa is manipulated by him in order to come into his house. As describe, Vanessa is a girl who comes from a certain village and seems easy to manipulate. Strane thinks that Vanessa will be the good choice to become his victim and he did it. Strane asks her to do the sexual activity toward his genital part. It shows that Vanessa is controlled by him. He guides Vanessa's hand to it, he also guides Vanessa's hand away from it. It indicates that Vanessa tries to do what he wants. As described in the scene that Vanessa even cannot tell him that she feels tired. It is also shown by her expression when did it for Strane. But, Strane says that "You can handle a few minutes of this", from this word, Strane seems did not to care for her. At her age, Vanessa should obey what Strane wants to. She doesn't have any power to oppose him. It can be seen from the data that sexual contact between them is guided by Strane. From the sentence "I can't tell him I'm tired", it indicates that Vanessa does not have power to say what she felt and think that she should obey him.

Regarding to the types of sexual abuse which experienced by Vanessa, the researcher finds other students who become the victim of sexual abuse which is done by Strane. Vanessa realizes his manipulation after knowing the other victim who is also sexually abused by Strane. The first victim Vanessa knows is Taylor Birch. She posts her experience of being sexually abused by Strane. Her courage to post her sexual abuse experience attracts public's attention. Public empathize and support her through comments on her post. The following data are the comments for the post she sends. The post

"You're so strong"

"You're so brave"

"What kind of monster could do that to a child" (p.1)

From the following data, it can be concluded that Taylor gets serious sexual abuse case. The novel does not tell how Taylor gets her sexual abuse experience. She post her experience in order to make everyone knows what had been happened to her. She also searches for other girls who are in the same position like her. She finds Vanessa and sends her a message "*Hi, Vanessa, I'm not sure if you know anything* 

about me, but you and I are in the strange position of sharing an experience, something that, for me, was traumatic and I'm guessing it was the same for you." (p. 204). Vanessa ignores her, but Taylor really wants to have a conversation with her for sharing the same experience they had. Taylor comes to vanessa's workplace, but Vanessa refuses to meet her. Time goes by, it makes Vanessa thinks what did Strane do to her. Then, they decide to meet and have a conversation. It is illustrated in the following data:

"He groped me, ok?" she says, "in the classroom, behind his desk. I breathe out and turn limp, swaying as I stand. Like Strane under the spruce tree at the Halloween dance. "you know what I want to do to you?" at that point, he'd only touched me, groped behind his desk. But, he violated me in other ways, she says. It doesn't have to be physical to be abuse." (p.274)

The data shows that Strane do a fondling action to Taylor. Strane tries to grope her private parts. As illustrated in that conversation, that action happens in the scool environtment. This is the same thing, as was done to the other victim, including Vanessa. Form this conversation, Vanessa starts to believe and realize about Strane manipulation which leads her to be his sexual abuse victim. Vanessa realizes that Strane does not love her, he did the same thing to other girls.

Regarding with Taylor's sexual abuse case, other cases of Strane's victim is out. There are several girls who become his sexual abuse victim. After Taylor's posts her experience, other girls who are also become Strane's sexual abuse victims are motivated to do the same thing. They start to effort to get their right by sharing their experience in the social media as what Taylor did. In the wake of the article post about other girls who are being sexually abused by Strane, Browick suspends him without pay and opens another investigation. Then, Vanessa meets Taylor for having conversation about this case. As illustrated in the data, fondling action also happens to other girls as what explained by Taylor.

"How about other girls? I ask"

"He groped them too"

"So,he touched them, it was what he'd confessed to me all along. Starting that night at his house, when he held my face in his hands and said, I touched her, that's all. I was relieved than. I wait now for the relief to find me again but there's nothing. Not even outrage of shock because by hearing her say it, nothing is changed, I already knew". (p.275)

From the following data, it is explained that the victim are not only Vanessa And Taylor. There are other girls who are also become sexual abuse victim done by Strane. That action includes as fondling type of sexual abuse. Strane confesses that he gropes the private parts of them.

#### 2. Rape

In the novel entitled *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell is found some rape scenes. Her teacher makes several manipulations against her in order to have an opportunity to rape her. Regarding with the rape happens to Vanessa, the following data are the evidence of the rape scenes which happens to her within the novel.

It is illustrated in the following data:

"Can I? Is this ok? He asks. But he's already there, I don't understand what he's doing, kissing me there, I know it's something people do. Wrapping his arm under me, pulls me closer, and I dig my heels in to the mattress. Reach down and grab a fistful of his hair so hard it must hurt, I bite my bottom lip to keep from crying out. Ok, stop, I say, stop, stop. But he keep going' (p.110).

In the first data, the researcher finds evidence showing that the victim faces sexual abuse in the form of rape. Vanessa is raped by her teacher, Jacob Strane. From the evidence above, it shows that Strane asking her permission to do the sexual penetration, but before Vanessa answering that, Strane is already there. Therefore, Vanessa cannot do anything. As stated in (Lumbantobing, 2017) there are three Vanessa is deceived by his manipulation, he does everything he could. The important thing he does is make sure everything he is done by asking her permission, but he is not really asking. He does what he wants before Vanessa answer it. Although Vanessa loves him, she dislikes being treated that way. From this data, it shows that the condition is controlled by Strane. Vanessa does not get what she wants, everything happens without her permission. The data shows that woman is discriminated by man. Man can do anything to women, they think woman less active, weak and easy to be controlled by them. Another rape scenes happen to Vanessa, her personality makes Strane believes that she is easy to be manipulated.

The evidence is in the following data:

"I know he wants the truth and that I should tell him I didn't like being woken up by him hard and practically pushing in to me. That it felt forced, but I'm not brave to enough to say any of this, not even that I feel sick to my stomach." (p.114)

The data above shows that Strane has power and can control Vanessa against unwanted sexual activity. As explained that Vanessa is just his student, she is not brave enough to say what she felt. She feels forced about everything is done by Strane. Regarding with this case, there are many sexual abuse cases that happen to children because they tend to be afraid to tell what has been experienced by them. Thus, parents often do not realize that action happens to their children. In this case, Vanessa is also a children, she is under age. She keeps everything happens in herself. She does not tells anyone, because she loves Strane although she dislike for being treated like that.

Along with the data above, another rape also happens to Vanessa. The evidence can be seen in the following data:

"I try to stall, tell him I don't want pregnant. He tries holds himself with one hand and steadies me with the other 'you won't pregnant, just relax'. He tries to push in, his thumb digging hard into my pelvis. It won't fit. 'You gotta calm dawn, take a deep breathe' he says. I start to tear up, but he doesn't stop, just say that he's doing great as he keeps trying to get in. He tells me to breathe in and out, and when I exhale, he thrusts hard and pushes a little farther inside. I start crying, really crying, but he doesn't stop". (P.112)

In the third data, Strane invites Vanessa to his house. Vanessa feels afraid and refuses him, But, Strane says that he just wants to sit on the couch and watch a movie with her. Thus, Vanessa agrees and comes to his house. Strane lies, Strane rapes her. From the sentence "*I start crying, really crying, but he does not stop*" it indicates that Vanessa doesn't want to do that sexual activity. Strane may think that fifteen girl like her is easy to manipulate. Strane always does various kinds of manipulation against her, to have an opportunity to do sexual contact with her. It is displayed in the following data:

"Listen, he says. I have no expectations, I'd be happy to sit in the couch with you and watch a movie. We don't even to hold hands if you don't want to, ok? It's important that you never feel coerced. That's the only way I'll be able to live with myself." (P.112)

But, Strane lies; they don't even sit on the couch or watch a movie. Strane shows Vanessa each room in his house. And his bedroom is the last room he showed. Strane gives her soda, Vanessa reminds him about watching a movie, the offer he made. But Strane refuses and ask her to prepare for bed. Vanessa has no choice and prepares for bed. Then, Strane does a sexual penetration against Vanessa without her consent. It can be seen that Vanessa tries to stall. At her age, she may think about the result of having sex with Strane. She can't refuse, she just cries. But, Strane doesn't stop and still tries to rape Vanessa.

#### 3. Exposure

In the novel *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell exposure action are found. The impact of exposure includes unnecessary worry or depression, remorse, inability to feel empathy or guilt, habitual deception, low anger tolerance, emotional distancing, bad judgment, embarrassment, and fear of the future (Blake, 2019). Such what had been happened to Vanessa, she faced an exposure action. It can be seen from the data as follows:

"He goes into the living room and brings back the Polaroid camera "don't get dressed yet" he says. I hold my arms over my chest and shake my head. "I want to remember this moment", he says. He takes pictures. I stare at the photos and try to see what he sees, but I look too weird in them, painfully pale against the unmade bed, my eye unfocused, hair matted from sex." (P.165)

From the data above, it indicates as sexual abuse in the term of exposure. Because Vanessa becomes the victim, Strane takes her photos without using any clothes on her body. Vanessa has refused him, but he still did it. It not only happens once, strane also did another action of exposure to her, the proven data as follows:

"Strane takes another polaroid, standing before a backdrop of birch trees, lifting my skirt as I stared at the camera. Looking like Lolita and knowing exactly what I am. I wonder how much victimhood I'd be willing to grant his wish." (p.256)

The data shows that Vanessa lifts her skirts, which is indicated as exposure too, because the taken photos are aimed to expose the genital part of her. Theresa May (2019) explained that the *upskirting* action is humiliating and embarrassing the victim.

### B. Vanessa and other victim struggle against the sexual abuse

Vanessa and other victim's experiences of the sexual abuse influenced them to struggle which related to the radical feminist thought. Fauzia & Rahayu (2019) argued about the struggle of women in radical feminism that their painful sensitivity to women's oppression exist for a purpose, especially to eliminate it. They want all women are free from direct, structural and cultural oppression. They try to break the systems and power which cause them to be subordinated with it. Being sexually abused by Strane makes Vanessa and other victim want to be free from him. From the beginning, it shows that Vanessa and other victim do not have the power to refuse the sexual abuse done by Strane. Then, they decided to made several struggles. The first struggle is realizing the condition and refuse to have sexual contact with Strane, the second struggle is exposing their experience in the social media which influenced strane's reputation in school and make him commit suicide.

### 1. Realizing the condition and refuse to have sexual contact with Strane

The data below shows how Vanessa realize her condition and it influenced her to make several struggles in order to be free from the sexual abuse which done by Strane:

*"Whether believe it or not. Driven toward it, toward him, I was the kind of girl that isn't supposed to exist: one eager to hurl herself into the path of a pedhopile."*(*p.70*)

From the quotation above, it shows that Vanessa regrets about what had happened to her. For being stupid and become abuse victim of the boy that she loved. Strane takes control over her; other victims' presence also makes her realize that she is manipulated by her boyfriend. For woman, the option to control their own bodies and their sexuality with no separation, compulsion, and savagery is the basic of their strengthening. Without sexual rights, they could not understand their privileges to self-assurance and self-sufficiency, nor would they be able to control different parts of their lives. Undoubtedly it was the endeavors to control woman's sexuality into the injustice principle. As can be known from the data, the victim has lost their strengthening at that time. Thus, after years passed, Vanessa decided to refuse for having sexual contact with Strane. The following data shows how Vanessa refuses to have sexual contact with Strane:

"On Monday, when strane and I sit in the dark classroom, I won't let him to kiss me. I turn away and twist my legs out of his reach. "whats wrong?" he asks. I shake my head, don't know how to explain. He seems completely unbothered by the upcoming break. He hasn't brought it up." (P.97)

The data above clearly shows how Vanessa refuses Strane. This action included as Vanessa's struggle. Because after many years, she braves herself to express what she wants to do, even though she can't explain what she felt. From that data, it can be concluded that she can prevent Strane to have sexual contact with her. Another following data also shows how Vanessa refuses for being sexually abused by Strane:

"It's been months since we last spoke, when I was gripped with panic after my dad died of a heart attack and I told Strane I couldn't do it anymore: the same sudden onset of morals I've had through years of screw-ups-lost job, breaks up and breaks down, as though being good could retroactively fix all the things I've broken." (P.3)

From the data above, it shows that Vanessa has spoken up about what she felt that she cannot do that anymore with Strane. The death of her father also makes her realize what she had been through with Strane is a big mistake which done within her life. Vanessa wants to be a better person and fix all the bad things that have passed by her. The phenomenon of sexual abuse survivors expresses their experience through social media.

### 2. Exposing their experience in the social media

According to Firestone (1970) the struggle of radical feminism includes raising public awareness about such issues as rape and violence against women. Exposing their experience in the social media is their struggle to rise up their issues of being sexually abused by a teacher of their school. This phenomenon is triggered by woman movement called #MeToo which encouraging other victim to do the same thing. Sexual abuse is often seen as a disgrace and it is usually the victim is blamed. Therefore, social media is considered more effective to uncover their case. This action also attracts public attention to support the victim (Vanesha, 2021). In the novel *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell, the victim posts their sexual abuse experience through social media. As a result, it attracts society's attention and finally opened investigation regarding their case.

The first victim who is posted her experience for being sexually abused by Strane is Taylor. That news leads other victim to do the same thing. The news uncovers the case and shows the world who the real Strane is. The first page of the novel tells how Taylor posts her experience and how they get support from the society about her courage to reveal the case. It can be seen from the conversation which happens between Strane and Vanessa.

"It should be okay" I say. "Everything she wrote is a lie" on the phone, Strane sucks in a breath, air whistling through his teeth. "I don't know if she is lying, at least not technically. "but, you barely touched her. In that post she says you assaulted her." "Assault" he scoffs." (p.6)

From the data above, there are the conversations between Strane and Vanessa about the sexual abuse experience which is posted by Taylor. Taylor is the first victim who is sexually abused by Strane. She posts her experience in her social media; she explains what Strane did to her. The post makes Vanessa angry to Strane but it can be seen from the data that he still denies everything. Therefore, the spread news gives a big change. Taylor get support from the society and it makes her more feel safe. What Taylor did, makes other victim does the same thing. From what she post, it motivate other victim who is also sexually abused by Strane to post as what Taylor did. Including Vanessa, she did the same thing. Vanessa's effort against sexual abuse is Vanessa begins to release an article about her experience of being sexually abused by one of the teachers in her school. She writes an article about rape as proven in the following data:

"An article I wrote on rape in Titus Andronicus with comments at the end: Vanessa, your writing is astounding. I remember scoffing at the grade, knowing it was nothing to take seriously, only another round of praise from a teacher who wanted to coax me closer." (p.254)

The released article is based on her experience and it tells how the victim is sexually abused by the perpetrator. After years, finally she starts to express everything she felt in the article she writes. She got a lot of support comment from the society. Based on this scene, women become impromptu intelligence to find out about life or about the profile of their opponents as a form of strength to defend themselves from all aspects that were likely happen to them. Women always have many ways to maintain her self-esteem even from great people. The release article catches society's attention. Not, only society's attention, but it also Vanessa's professor. Vanessa meets Henry, her professor. They have a long conversation, once Henry talks about Browick and he says that he has a friend who works there. Then, Vanessa tells her sexual abuse experience to his professor whose wife Strane's coworker is named Penelope.

"He nods, looking so concerned, I imagine I could confess anything and he would hear it. I can feel his kindness already, before I say a word." "Do you know everyone else who works there?" I ask. "Vanessa, whats wrong?"

"I was raped by the teacher there", I say. "I was fifteen" "he's still there." (P.328)

Vanessa told everything happens to her. She clearly says that she is raped by a teacher in Browick. After releasing the article, this is the first time that she braves to tell her experience to other people. When henry heard the information, he is curious about that Vanessa had been sexually abused in Browick, it reminds him of the article which is written by Vanessa in *Titus Andronicus*. After all that happened, Henry realizes that what Vanessa wrote is her experienced of being the victim of sexual abuse in her school at Browick.

"Based on what I read" he says "I think you might want to tell me something."

I think of the entries I wrote about him, my descriptions, of craving him so badly my whole body ached from it, the comments that would show up sometimes in the mddle of the night- from him? I swallow hard, my legs shaking, my hands, even my brain shakes.

"If you already read it" I ask, "why do you need me to say it?" (p. 385)

"What did he say?" I ask. And with that, he's hardened, furrowed brow and flashing eyes, "no" he says flatly. "I am asking question here. You tell me why you did it. Why you felt compelled to tell a man whose wife works with me that I raped you." His voice chokes on raped, the word so repulsive makes him gag "tell me why you did it" (P.370)

He tells his wife to get more information. His wife spreads that information,

everyone has known that Strane does the sexual abuse to Vanessa. Then, it causes

Strane's anger to Vanessa. it shows that Vanessa and other victims' information about being sexually abused in Browick has been widely spread through Penelope's information. Strane is afraid if he must trap on the cases of sexual abuse, but it has been late. Strane cannot do anything and He has to face the risk against what he has done. Then, Browick takes an action against what had been done by Strane to their students. It is proven with the following data:

"In the way of the information about sexual abuse, Browick suspends Strane without pay and opens another investigation. This time the state police are involved, too" (p.202)

Vanessa and other victim effort to post their experience in the social media give a satisfying result. Those actions prove that women have strong bonds with other women. It can be seen that women can strengthen each other. These efforts were made to obtain women rights. The data shows that the school opens an investigation for the sexual abuse case which done by Strane. Strane also has to take responsibility for what he has done. Another investigation is held and his news about sexual abuse has spread in social media and newspapers. He sexually abused 5 girls and gets a lot of critics from society "IT'S SIMPLE, JUST CASTRATE ALL PEDOPHILES" (Page: 202). Strane is depressed and decided to commit suicide. The proven data is as follows:

#### Longtime Browick Schoolteacher Found Dead In Norumbega River

NORUMBEGA- Jacob Strane, 59, of Norumbega, a long-time teacher at the browick school, died early Saturday morning.

The Norumbega County Sheriff's Department reported that Strane's body was found midmorning in the Norumbega river near the narrows bridge.

"The gentleman jumped off the bridge. We recovered his body this morning," the sheriff's department stated. "We received a call at 6.05 AM about a possible jumper, and that person then witnessed the gentleman jump. There's no indication of any foul play."

Strane was born in Butte, Montana and taught English at the norumbega boarding school for thirty years and was a well-known member of the community. Last Thursday, this paper reported Strane was under investigation after five browick students came forward with allegations of sexual abuse against the teacher, the allegations ranging in date from 2006 to 2016.

The sheriff's department stated that while Strane's death has been ruled a suicide. An investigation is ongoing. (P. 205-206)

Along with the data above, it clearly shows that the news spread the death of Strane. Before he died, he has taken responsibility for what he had done to the five victims of him. He does not get his salary, even though he still teaches there. He also must attend several investigations held. Therefore, societies always mock him, there are a lot of negative comments in the article about him which causes Strane to depressed and committing himself to suicide.

### **CHAPTER IV**

#### **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

In this section, the chapter is divided into two parts, which are conclusion and suggestion. The conclusion part consists of a brief explanation about the conclusion of the analysis which is done in the third chapter. Furthermore, the second part is the suggestion which consists of researcher suggestions and recommendations for the next researcher who conducts the research related to the same novel or theory.

#### A. Conclusion

In this research, the researcher analyzes the portrayal of the sexual abuse of the main character in the novel entitled *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell (2020). The research employs Kathrin Patricelli's type of abuse theory and feminist literary criticism as the approach of the research. In the previous chapter, the researcher has presented the analysis of the novel *My Dark Vanessa* by Kate Elizabeth Russell. The first objective of the research is to find out the type of sexual abuse experienced by Vanessa and other victims.

Along with the sexual abuse she faced, the researcher finds that there are three types of sexual abuse which is done by her teacher. Those are fondling, rape, and exposure. At their age, Vanessa and other victim are under control Strane's manipulation. Fondling happens on them because the teacher does the manipulation to them. The teacher makes them think that the teacher does not intentionally grope them. Furthermore, rape occurs because Strane's manipulation too. He invites Vanessa to watch a movie in his house, but he rapes her. And the exposure is her teacher's action in taking her picture by exposing the private parts of her.

The second objective of the research is about the victim's struggle against the sexual abuse experience faced by Vanessa and other victims. After being sexually abused for a long time, Vanessa and other victims are brave and struggle to be free from the sexual abuse. The first struggle is refuse to have sexual contact with her teacher. After vanessa's father died, she realizes that she is under control of her teacher's manipulation. Therefore, she begins to refuse for being sexually abused by her teacher.

The second struggle is posting sexual abuse experience. This action is motivated by other victim who also post and sharing their experience for being Strane's sexual abuse victim. She writes her sexual abuse experience in *Titus Andronicus*. The last struggle is she shares her experienced with her friend whose wife works with her perpetrator. Her friend's wife spreads that information in Browick and that action is caused her teacher's anger. The news that spread makes her free from sexual abuse. Then, the school opens investigation and suspends him without pay. All people mocks him and he decide to commit suicide.

#### **B.** Suggestion

Many sexual abuse cases happen and cause a serious problem in society. Therefore, this thesis aims to provide information for readers about the victim's struggle against the sexual abuse. Therefore, the researcher hopes that this research can assist the next researcher which used the same theory or object. Many aspects can be analyzed from Kate Elizabeth Russell's *My Dark Vanessa*, such as from the social, psychological, culture, etc. the researcher suggests the next researcher conduct the research using other aspects which have not been analyzed, as well as the aspects which have mentioned above. By analyzing different aspects will give inspiration for the next researcher to find the gap of the research.

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## **CURRICULUM VITAE**



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# APPENDIX

# A. Sexual Abuse faced by Vanessa in Kate Elizabeth's My Dark Vanessa

# 1. Fondling

E.

Corpus	Page
"Then Mr. Strane's knee touch my bare thigh, right below the hemline of my skirt. With his eyes still on the poem and the tip his pen following the line. His knee nestles against me at the seminar table. At first I assume he doesn't realize, that he thinks my leg is the desk or the side of the chair. I wait for him to recognize what he's done, to see where his knee drifted and whisper a quick "sorry", but his knee stays pressed into me. I try to be polite and inch away."	50
"Watching my face, his fingertips slide up my legs and keep sliding until they brush the crotch of my tights. Reflexively my legs clamp together, trapping his hands. "that was too far, I shake my head" "it's not ok" I say. His hand slips out from under my skirt and he slides like liquid out of his chair. Kneeling before me, he lays his head on my lap and says, "I'm going to ruin you".	88
"He guides my hand to it, he shows me what he meant. I do it and I try keeping the pace even though my arm is starting to cramp, I can't tell him I'm tired. <i>You can handle a few minutes of this.</i> When he guides my hand away from it, I worry he'll ask me to use my mouth nest and I don't want that, I can't do that, but instead he says "do you want me to fuck you?" it's a question, but he isn't really asking."	111-112
"You're so strong" "You're so brave" "What kind of monster could do that to a child"	1
"He groped me, ok?" she says, "in the classroom, behind his desk. I breathe out and turn limp, swaying as I stand. Like Strane under the spruce tree at the Halloween dance. "you know what I want to do to you?" at that point, he'd only touched me, groped behind his desk. But, he violated me in other ways, she says. It doesn't have to be physical to be abuse."	274

"How about other girls? I ask"
"He groped them too"
"So, he touched them, it was what he'd confessed to me all along.
Starting that night at his house, when he held my face in his hands
and said, I touched her, that's all. I was relieved than. I wait now
for the relief to find me againbut there's nothing. Not even outrage

or shock. Because by hearing her say it, nothing is changed. I

275

# already knew." 2. Rape

Corpus	Page
"Can I? Is this ok? He asks. But he's already there, I don't understand what he's doing, kissing me there, I know it's something people do. Wrapping his arm under me, pulls me closer, and I dig my heels in to the mattress. Reach down and grab a fistful of his hair so hard it must hurt, I bite my bottom lip to keep from crying out. Ok, stop, I say, stop, stop. But he keep going'.	110
"I know he wants the truth and that I should tell him I didn't like being woken up by him hard and practically pushing in to me. That it felt forced, but I'm not brave to enough to say any of this, not even that I feel sick to my stomach."	114
"I try to stall, tell him I don't want pregnant. He tries holds himself with one hand and steadies me with the other 'you won't pregnant, just relax'. He tries to push in, his thumb digging hard into my pelvis. It won't fit. 'You gotta calm dawn, take a deep breathe' he says. I start to tear up, but he doesn't stop, just say that he's doing great as he keeps trying to get in. He tells me to breathe in and out, and when I exhale, he thrusts hard and pushes a little farther inside. I start crying, really crying, but he doesn't stop".	112
"Listen, he says. I have no expectations, I'd be happy to sit in the couch with you and watch a movie. We don't even to hold hands if you don't want to, ok? It's important that you never feel coerced. That's the only way I'll be able to live with myself."	112

# 3. Exposure

Corpus	Page	

"He goes into the living room and brings back the Polaroid camera "don't get dressed yet" he says. I hold my arms over my chest and shake my head. "I want to remember this moment", he says. He takes pictures. I stare at the photos and try to see what he sees, but I look too weird in them, painfully pale against the unmade bed, my eye unfocused, hair matted from sex." (Page: 165)	165
"Strane takes another polaroid, standing before a backdrop of birch trees, lifting my skirt as I stared at the camera. Looking like Lolita and knowing exactly what I am. I wonder how much victimhood I'd be willing to grant his wish."	256

# B. Vanessa's struggle against the sexual abuse experienced by her

## 1. Refuse to have sexual contact with Strane

Corpus	Page
"It's been months since we last spoke, when I was gripped with panic after my dad died of a heart attack and I told Strane I couldn't do it anymore: the same sudden onset of morals I've had through years of screw-ups-lost job, breaks up and breaks down, as though being good could retroactively fix all the things I've broken." (Page: 3)	3
"On Monday, when strane and I sit in the dark classroom, I won't let him to kiss me. I turn away and twist my legs out of his reach. "whats wrong?" he asks. I shake my head, don't know how to explain. He seems completely unbothered by the upcoming break. He hasn't brought it up."	97

# 2. Searching information against other victims

Corpus	Page
"I get ready for work and the post has been up for eight hours,	1
while curling my hair, I refresh the page. So far, 224 shares and 875	
likes. I put on my black wool suit, refresh again. I dig under the	
couch for my black flats, refresh. Fasten the gold names tag to my	

lapel, refresh. Each time the numbers climb and the comments multiply".	
It published on the front of the page of the Portland newspaper: "longtime boarding schoolteacher suspended amid further allegations of sexual abuse." Five girls accusing him now, it says: taylor birch, plus four others: two recents graduates and two current students, all minors at the time of alleged abuse."	161

# **3.** Vanessa's effort against the sexual abuse

Corpus	Page
"An article I wrote on rape in <i>Titus Andronicus</i> with comments at the end: Vanessa, your writing is astounding. I remember scoffing at the garde, knowing it was nothing to take seriously, only another round of praise from a teacher who wanted to coax me closer."	254
He nods, looking so concerned, I imagine I could confess anything and he would hear it. I can feel his kindness already, before I say a word.""Do you know everyone else who works there?" I ask."Vanessa, whats wrong?" "I was raped by the teacher there", I say. "I was fifteen" "he's still there."	328
"What did he say?" I ask. And with that, he's hardened, furrowed brow and flashing eyes, "no" he says flatly. "I am asking question here. You tell me why you did it. Why you felt compelled to tell a man whose wife works with me that I raped you." His voice chokes on raped, the word so repulsive makes him gag "tell me why you did it"	370
"In the way of the information about sexual abuse, Browick suspends Strane without pay and opens another investigation. This time the state police are involved, too"	202
Longtime Browick Schoolteacher Found Dead In Norumbega River	205-206
NORUMBEGA- Jacob Strane, 59, of Norumbega, a long time	
teacher at the browick school, died early Saturday morning. The Norumbega County Sheriff's	

Department reported that Strane's body was found midmorning in the Norumbega river near the narrows bridge.

"The gentleman jumped off the bridge. We recovered his body this morning," the sheriff's department stated. "We received a call at 6.05AM about a possible jumper, and that person then witnessed the gentleman jump. There's no indication of any foul play."

Strane was born in Butte, Montana and taught English at the norumbega boarding school for thirty years and was a well-known member of the community. Last Thursday, this paper reported Strane was under investigation after five browick students came forward with allegations of sexual abuse against the teacher, the allegations ranging in date from 2006 to 2016.

The sheriff's department stated that while Strane's death has been ruled a suicide. An investigation is ongoing. "I go home for thanksgiving and mom's hair is cut short, ending 397

above her ears. "I know it's ugly," she says. "But who I am trying to impress?" she touches her fingers to the nape of her neck, where the hair was shorn with a buzzer. "It's not ugly" I say. "You look great, truly".