

**Adulthood Sibling Rivalry in Emily Giffin's *First Comes Love***

**THESIS**

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**Adulthood Sibling Rivalry in Emily Giffin's *First Comes Love***

**THESIS**

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**2021**

## STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP

I state that the thesis entitled **Adulthood Sibling Rivalry in Emily Giffin's First Comes Love** 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, August 15<sup>th</sup> 2022



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## LEGITIMATION SHEET

This is to certify that Rizma Akhwadiaz Alfi Syahrin's thesis entitled *Adulthood Sibling Rivalry in Emily Giffin's First Comes Love* been approved by the Board of Examiners as one of the requirements for the degree of Sarjana Sastra (S.S) in Department of English Literature.

Malang, 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022

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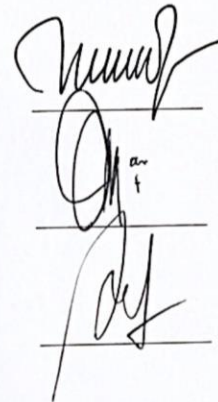
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## **MOTTO**

*“There will always be room to grow to be better but today celebrate who you are already are”*

-Harpreet M Dayal-

## **DEDICATION**

I proudly dedicate this thesis to my family who always give me prayer, and support. I also dedicate to myself who always cheer me up with unconditional self love.


## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All praise and gratitude that the author extends to the presence of Allah SWT who has bestowed His mercy and grace. Prayers and greetings are hopefully still poured out to the Prophet Muhammad SAW, so that the researcher can complete this thesis with the title *Adulthood Sibling Rivalry in Emily Giffin's First Comes Love*.

This thesis is prepared to fulfill one of the requirements in obtaining a Bachelor's degree in English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. The researcher realizes that the preparation of this thesis was realized by the help, direction, guidance, and prayers from various parties. First of all, my gratitude is presented to my supervisor, Mr. Agung Wiranata Kusuma, M.A., who always provides motivation, guidance, and correction to the researcher so that this thesis can be realized. Second, the researcher would like to thank to my examiner Mrs. Dr. Hj. Mundi Rahayu, M.Hum., and Ms. Asni Furaida, M.A., who has given time and useful advice so that this thesis can be completed.

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## مستخلص البحث

شهر, رزم اخواذيز الف . (2022) . التنافس بين الأشقاء في سن الرشد على الحب يأتي أولاً. أطروحة .  
جنوح الأحداث في رسائل الانجليزية قسم كلية العلوم الإنسانية، الجامعي لمولانا الإسلام مالك ابراهيم مالانج.

المشرف : اغغ ورننت كسم

الكلمات المفتاحية: النقد النفسي ، الباباليا والقديم ، التنافس بين الأشقاء

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تحليل التنافس بين الأشقاء الذي يحدث عند البالغين والعوامل التي تسبب تنافس الأخوة لإميل جيفين (2016). جوزي وميريديث شقيقان يعيشان First Comes Love بين جوزي وميريديث في فيلم في أتلانتا وحياتهما الشقيقة تتباعد تدريجياً وتشعل منافسة منذ وفاة شقيقهما الأكبر دانيال في حادث. جوزي هي الأخت الصغرى لميريديث ، وهي تعيش كمعلمة في مدرسة ابتدائية ولديها خيار عدم الزواج. وفي الوقت نفسه ، ميريديث محامية لديها زوج وابنة واحدة. كلاهما له سمات مختلفة. لذلك قام المؤلفون بطرح سؤالين تمت مناقشتهم في هذه الدراسة وهما : 1. ما هي أشكال التنافس بين الأشقاء التي تُصوّر في مرحلة البلوغ كما هو مُصوّر في 2. ما هو سبب التنافس بين الأشقاء الموضح في.

في تحليل أهداف البحث ، استخدم الباحث النقد النفسي واستخدم نظرية التنافس بين الأشقاء لباباليا لتحليل شكله First Comes Love ونظرية شافر لتحليل أسبابه. تم جمع البيانات المأخوذة في هذه الدراسة من رواية بواسطة من خلال قراءة الرواية وجمع البيانات وتحليل البيانات. قامت الباحثة بتحليل هذا البحث من (2016) خلال تحديد أشكال التنافس بين الأشقاء في مرحلة البلوغ لجوزي وميريديث وما تسبب في تنافس الأخوة بينهما بناءً على نظرية باباليا والنظرية القديمة ونظرية شافر.

وجدت النتائج في هذه الدراسة أن أشكال التنافس بين الأشقاء التي حدثت عندما كان جوزي وميريديث راشدين نتجت عن الصراع والغيرة والكراهية. وفي الوقت نفسه ، فإن الأسباب التي أدت إلى تنافس الأخوة بين جوزي وميريديث هي الأدوار الأبوية والمنافسة ومشاعر الحسد. يأمل الباحث في البحث المستقبلي أن يتم تطوير البحث حول منافسة الأشقاء من خلال دراسة أوسع مجهزة بمصادر مرجعية أكثر تنوعاً. من المأمول أن يساعد هذا البحث في تطوير مزيد من البحث.

## ABSTRACT

**Syahrin, Rizma Akhwadiaz Alfi (2022)** *Adulthood Sibling Rivalry in Emilly Giffin's First Comes Love*. Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang.

Advisor: Agung Wiranata Kusuma, M.A.

*Key Terms: Psychology Literary Criticism, Sibling Rivalry*

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Sibling rivalry is a popular term for interactions that tend to be aggressive and cause quarrels between siblings. This study aims to analyze the portrayal of sibling rivalry that occurs in adults and the factors that cause sibling rivalry between Josie and Meredith in Emilly Giffin's *First Comes Love*. Josie and Meredith are two siblings who live in Atlanta and their sisterly life gradually drifts apart and sparks a rivalry since their eldest brother, Daniel, dies in an accident. Therefore, the researcher makes two questions that are discussed in this study, there are: 1) What are the forms of sibling rivalry in adulthood in *First Comes Love*? 2) What is the cause of the sibling rivalry depicted in *First Comes Love*?

In analyzing this research, the researcher uses psychology literary criticism and uses the sibling rivalry theory from Papalia, Old and Feldman to analyze the forms and Shaffer & Kipp's theory to analyze the causes. The data taken in this study were collected from the novel *First Comes Love* by Emilly Giffin by reading the novel, collecting data, and analyzing the data. The researcher analyzed this research by identifying the forms of sibling rivalry in Josie and Meredith's adulthood and what caused the sibling rivalry between them based on Papalia, Old and Feldman's theory, and Shaffer & Kipp's theory.

The results in this study found that the forms of sibling rivalry that occurred between Josie and Meredith were conflict, jealousy, and resentment. Meanwhile, the causes that give rise to sibling rivalry between Josie and Meredith are the parents attitude, competition, and feelings of envy.

## ABSTRAK

**Syahrin, Rizma Akhwadiaz Alfi (2022)** *Adulthood Sibling Rivalry in Emily Giffin's First Comes Love*. Skripsi. Jurusan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Humaniora, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang.

Pembimbing: Agung Wiranata Kusuma, M.A.

*Kata Kunci: Psikologi Sastra, Persaingan Saudara Kandung*

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Persaingan saudara kandung merupakan istilah populer untuk interaksi yang cenderung agresif dan menimbulkan pertengkaran antar saudara kandung. Penelitian ini bertujuan menganalisis persaingan saudara kandung yang terjadi pada orang dewasa dan faktor yang menyebabkan terjadinya persaingan saudara kandung antara Josie dan Meredith dalam *First Comes Love* karya Emily Giffin. Josie dan Meredith adalah dua saudara kandung yang tinggal di Atlanta dan kehidupan persaudaraan mereka berangsur menjauh dan memicu persaingan sejak kakak tertuanya yang bernama Daniel meninggal dalam kecelakaan. Josie adalah adik dari Meredith, ia hidup sebagai guru sekolah dasar dan memiliki untuk tidak menikah. Sedangkan, Meredith adalah seorang pengacara yang mempunyai suami dan satu orang anak perempuan. Mereka berdua memiliki sifat yang berbeda. Maka dari itu, penulis membuat dua pertanyaan yang dibahas dalam penelitian ini, yaitu: 1) Apa saja bentuk persaingan saudara kandung yang digambarkan di masa dewasa seperti yang digambarkan dalam *First Comes Love*? 2) Apa penyebab persaingan saudara kandung yang digambarkan dalam *First Comes Love*?

Dalam menganalisis tujuan penelitian tersebut, peneliti menggunakan pendekatan psikologi dan memakai teori *sibling rivalry* dari Papalia, Old dan Feldman untuk menganalisis bentuknya dan teori Shaffer dan Kipp untuk menganalisis penyebabnya. Data yang diambil dalam penelitian ini dikumpulkan dari novel *First Comes Love* karya Emily Giffin dengan membaca novel, mengumpulkan data, dan menganalisis data. Peneliti menganalisis penelitian ini dengan mengidentifikasi bentuk persaingan saudara kandung pada usia dewasa Josie dan Meredith dan apa yang menyebabkan persaingan saudara kandung diantara mereka berdasarkan teori Papalia, Old, dan Feldman, serta teori Shaffer dan Kipp.

Hasil dalam penelitian ini menemukan bahwa bentuk persaingan saudara kandung yang terjadi saat usia dewasa Josie dan Meredith ditimbulkan oleh konflik, kecemburuan, dan kebencian. Sedangkan, penyebab yang menimbulkan adanya persaingan saudara kandung diantara Josie dan Meredith adalah peran orang tua, kompetisi, dan perasaan iri.

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In this chapter, the researcher explains the introduction of the research being studied and the several parts therein. The first part is the background of the study which contains and explains the researcher's reasons for conducting this research. The second and third parts are filled with the problem of the study and the objectives of the study to explain the problems and reasons for conducting the research. The fourth section contains scope and limitations to explain the limitations of the study. The fifth part is the significances of the study to describe the benefits of the research. The sixth section contains definitions of key terms to explain some of the key terms used in the study. Finally, the last section contains a research method to provide precise information on how data collection is carried out and the stages when analyzing this research.

#### **A. Background of The Study**

In a family, someone not only interacts with their parents, but they also interact with their siblings. The interaction between siblings is known as a sibling relationship. Sibling relationships affect how they develop socially and emotionally. However, the relationship between siblings is also characterized by competition or conflict (Volling et al., 2010). With the existence of the siblings, they felt competition in many ways for the first time (Sanders, 2017).

Nowadays, the phenomenon of sibling rivalry is one of the most often encountered. Sibling rivalry is a natural sense of jealousy towards siblings (Whiteman et al., 2011). Reber & Reber (in Gondo, 2016) state that sibling rivalry is a popular term for interactions that tend to be aggressive and cause quarrels between siblings. Sibling rivalry is hostility and jealousy between siblings (Gichara, 2006). Sibling rivalry usually occurs when siblings have the same age range or are close together and have the same gender (Tasya, 2020).

As the siblings get older, intimacy and conflict begin to diminish. However, the fact is that rivalry between siblings is still ongoing until adulthood and can continue throughout life (Cicirelli, 1995). Over time, the rivalry between siblings arises because of jealousy towards the higher socioeconomic status of siblings or jealousy towards a better life owned by siblings (Nandwana & Katoch, 2009). The rivalry between siblings happened because of rivalry or competition that occurred in the previous period (Conger & Little, 2010).

Sibling rivalry and all factors that exist are generally used as a problem raised in a literary work. Literary works are the result of certain psychological conditions (Emir, 2016). Literary work also functions for developing imagination (Rahayu, 2009b). Eventually, in literary works it does not only discuss fun but also discusses lessons that can be learned by humans such as the topic of sibling rivalry which is a phenomenon that cannot be avoided. Literary work is a reflection of the social conditions of the people (Rahayu, 2009a).

Thus, to find out the sibling rivalry itself in a literary work, psychology literary criticism is needed. Psychology literary criticism plays a role in shaping the understanding and interpretation of literary works from a psychological perspective. Wellek dan Warren (2014) argues that psychology literary is also a study of the creative process and examines the types and psychological laws applied to literary works. In line with that, psychology literary criticism also studies the impact of literature on readers. Therefore, the study of psychology literary criticism can assist researchers in reviewing literary works in order to explore patterns that have not been touched before.

Literary works in the form of fiction, such as novels, always have a variety of stories, the purpose of the stories contained in them. One of the requirements for a novel that can be said to be good is a novel that can make the reader feel like they are in the story and can dissolve in the story being told (Zukhruf, 2019). In line with the author's goal in analyze literary works on a psychological approach, especially sibling rivalry, Emily Giffin's novel entitled *First Comes Love* has advantages and can be studied with psychology literary criticism. In addition, the novel's writer highlight the characters in the novel's story and develop story conflicts that are so complicated that color the novel's story.

To elaborate this research, the researcher use a novel from Emily Giffin *First Comes Love*. It tells about two sisters in their late 30s dealing with simultaneous and separate challenges in their personal lives. This story describes a family in a deep

enmity and love bond between siblings; this story dominated by two siblings, Josie and Meredith. Josie is a classroom teacher who wants to have children without getting married. Meanwhile, Meredith is a successful lawyer and has a wonderful husband, and she blessed with a beautiful 4-year-old daughter. However, in her life, Meredith was always dissatisfied. Josie and Meredith's life got even more chaotic after her older brother Daniel died in an accident.

The reason why choosing *First Comes Love* by Emily Giffin is that the sisterly relationship between Josie and Meredith was initially very harmonious. However, due to the problems that occurred, they were distant and hated each other. Until in the end, they could reunite because they realized that they still needed each other. The problems between them reflect the situation outside at this time that there are still many people who do not get along with their siblings. As we know, the rivalry between siblings nowadays does not only occur during childhood but also occurs in adulthood. What he gets in childhood will be embedded into adulthood(Wallace, 2012).

In the early stages before conducting this research, the researcher tries to find previous research as a reference for researching to enrich the theory used in discussing the research carried out. There has been no relevant research on Emily Giffin's novel *First Comes Love*. Thus, relevant research only focuses on the similarities in theory. The first previous study entitled *Sibling Rivalry As Reflected In Julie Anne Peters' Luna* was written by Parwati(2019). They discussed sibling rivalry



that arose among the Bristow children and the impact of sibling rivalry on Liam's life. The study results show that Liam shows sibling rivalry against his younger siblings.

The next previous study is *Sibling Rivalry among Bristow's Children in Robert Galbraith's The Cuckoo's Calling* by Latifah(2015). She discussed the indications of sibling rivalry among Bristow's children and the family. The result has found out the sign of sibling rivalry because of jealousy. The last previous study is *Sibling Rivalry in Literary Darwinism's Perspective as Seen in John Shors' Beneath a Marble Sky* by Maulina(2021). She discussed motives that humans have as descriptions of cases of brother strife. The results showed that discovering human reasons that underlie the siblings considered their siblings as opponents in obtaining a limited source of life around them.

Furthermore, the similarities between this research and several previous studies are assessing psychology criticism and sibling rivalry in literary works. The difference is that the researcher will reveal the elements of sibling rivalry contained in Emily Giffin's novel *First Comes Love*, where this novel has never been studied before. The researcher will use Papalia, Olds & Feldman as well as Shaffer & Kipp's theory. Thus, the researcher has the opportunity to conduct research. The researcher must understand the problems or conflicts in the main characters to determine what sibling rivalry is.

Sibling rivalry theory helps researcher to identify the cause of someone experiencing sibling rivalry. Psychology literary criticism gives us enlightenment

about the reasons for each behavior carried out by each character in a literary work. As well as, the development, growth, and structure of the character's personality. Furthermore, the theory of sibling rivalry helps researcher to identify the cause of someone experiencing sibling rivalry.

All in all, using psychology literary criticism on sibling rivalry, this study wants to discuss more deeply about sibling rivalry that happened in *First Comes Love* novel. In addition, the researcher had the opportunity to analyze the novel, and hopefully it can help to give understanding for the readers.

## **B. Research Question**

The researcher makes questions to assist the researcher in the study to focus on the analysis. Therefore, these questions are:

1. What are the forms of sibling rivalry portrayed in adulthood in the *First Comes Love* by Emily Giffin?
2. What are the causes of sibling rivalry illustrated in the *First Comes Love* by Emily Giffin?

## **C. Objectives of The Study**

This study provides two objectives:

1. To identify the forms of sibling rivalry portrayed in adulthood in the *First Comes Love* by Emily Giffin.

2. To identify the causes of sibling rivalry in the *First Comes Love* by Emily Giffin.

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

This study focuses on adult sibling rivalry that occurs in two main characters named Josie and Meredith. This research will identify the forms of sibling rivalry in adulthood and examine the causes of sibling rivalry in the *First Comes Love* novel. The theory that will use in this research is Papalia, Olds and Feldman to identify forms of sibling rivalry in adulthood as well as the theory of Shaffer and Kipp to analyze the causes.

#### **E. Significances of The Study**

This research is expected to be successful in achieving objectives optimally, producing systematic reports, and being useful in general. There are two benefits from the results of this research, and there are theoretical benefits and practical benefits.

##### **1. Theoretical Benefits**

This research can provide benefits for developing about sibling rivalry, especially in the study of the novel *First Comes Love* by Emily Giffin, and examining sibling rivalry with a psychology literary criticism therein.

##### **2. Practical Benefits**

- a. For Researcher. Hopefully, the research is expected to broaden the analysis about psychology literary criticism, especially in a sibling rivalry. In the end, this research can be completed properly by the researcher.
- b. For Students. The results of this study are expected to help students provide broader knowledge about sibling rivalry.
- c. For Readers. This research can add insight and as a reference for readers to study in the field of literature, especially novels in terms of sibling rivalry with a psychology literary criticism.

## **F. Research Method**

### **1. Research Design**

In this research, the researcher uses literary criticism as the research design. It is equipment to discuss literary work by focusing on sibling rivalry. This research analyses the forms of sibling rivalry in the *First Comes Love* novel and the causes of sibling rivalry. Then, the researcher uses a psychology literary criticism as an approach. In this study, the researcher uses the theory of Papalia, Old, and Feldman to examine the forms of sibling rivalry in adulthood. Furthermore, the researcher uses the theory of Shaffer and Kipp to examine the causes of sibling rivalry

### **2. Data Sources**

The data source used for this research is the behaviour or conversations from the main characters depicted in the *First Comes Love* novel in 2016 by

Emily Giffin. The researcher chose Emily Giffin's novel because this novel became number one in New York Times Bestseller. The depiction of the main character's behaviour can find through conversations between characters or monologues written by the main characters. This novel has thirty five chapters and has 397 pages. This novel published by Ballantine Books New York in 2016.

### 3. Data Collection

There are several steps to collect the data. First, the researcher read the novel carefully. Second, the researcher underlines and take a notes the essential points related to the main character's behavior. Third, the researcher focuses on classifying data according to the research topic the forms of sibling rivalry in adulthood and the causes of sibling rivalry that occurs in the novel *First Comes Love* to gain objectives of the study.

### 4. Data Analysis

After obtaining the data, the researcher starts to verifying the data. First, the researcher will be analyzing the data based on problem of the study. The first data is about the forms of sibling rivalry in adulthood and the causes of sibling rivalry. However, if found the data that's not under the interpretation of the theory, the researcher examines the data again to find relevant data. Finally, the researcher can complete it to make conclusions on research sibling rivalry theories.

## **G. Definition of Key Terms**

1. Sibling rivalry: Sibling rivalry is conflict, jealousy, or resentment between brothers and sisters(Papalia et al., 2012).
2. Siblings: The relationship between older or younger brother or sister in the family who are related by blood.

## **H. Previous Study**

The first previous study entitled *Sibling Rivalry As Reflected In Julie Anne Peters' Luna* was written by Parwati(2019). This study uses the concept of sibling rivalry according to the psychoanalysis theory. They discussed sibling rivalry that arose among the Bristow children and the impact of sibling rivalry on Liam's life. The objectives of the study is to find out the indications of sibling rivalry appear among Bristow's children especially Liam O'Neill and the impact of sibling rivalry toward Liam's life. The study results show that Liam shows sibling rivalry against his younger siblings.

The second study is *Sibling Rivalry among Bristow's Children in Robert Galbraith's The Cuckoo's Calling* by Latifah(2015). This study uses psychological criticism as the research design especially the theory of psychoanalysis by Freud. She discussed the indications of sibling rivalry among Bristow's children and the family. The objectives of the study is to find out the indications of sibling rivalry appear among Bristow's children especially John Bristow and his family which influence his sibling rivalry. The result has found out the sign of sibling rivalry because of jealousy.

The last previous study is *Sibling Rivalry in Literary Darwinism's Perspective as Seen in John Shors' Beneath a Marble Sky* by Siti (2021). The researcher uses the theory of literary Darwinism, especially human motives theory propounded by Joseph Carrol, and Herbert Spencer's survival of the fittest. She discussed motives that humans have as descriptions of cases of brother strife. The objective of this study is to determine the human motives underlying the sibling rivalry case. The results showed that discovering human reasons that underlie the siblings considered their siblings as opponents in obtaining a limited source of life around them.

All in all, this research tries to discuss or find the forms and causes of sibling rivalry in *First Comes Love* novel. One thing that distinguishes this research from previous research is the sibling rivalry theory that never been discussed before especially in psychology literary criticism. Furthermore, the subjects and objects used are also different from previous studies. The subjects in this novel are two adult siblings, namely Josie and Meredith. Meanwhile, the object of this research is the novel *First Comes Love* which has never been discussed in the previous research.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This research focuses on sibling rivalry in *First Comes Love's* novel. Therefore, a theoretical framework is drawn here to have a deep understanding of the whole concept of the research. The researcher explains about psychology in literature. Then, the researcher explain about sibling rivalry theory by Papalia, Old and Feldman. Lastly, the researcher explain about the causes of sibling rivalry by Shaffer and Kipp.

#### A. Psychological Approach

Psychology and literature are two different but related aspects of knowledge. Literary works are the result of creative thinking in the form of stories or narratives that are poured using language as a basis(Musliah et al., 2018). Psychology is the scientific study of people's thoughts and behaviour, including personal experiences, trauma, conflict, and environmental influences(Sternberg & Hubley, 2004). The psychoanalysis aims to understand the psychological aspects of literary works(Ratna, 2009). One of the ways to enjoy literary works is through the study of literary psychology. By focusing on the characters, inner conflicts that relate to psychology theory can be analyzed.

The psychology literary criticism aimed to strengthen the meaning of a literary work. It can be interpreted that literary psychology is a literary study that views work as the psychological activity of an author who will use creativity and taste in work. Likewise, readers in responding to works will also not be separated from their



respective souls. Psychology and literature are not entirely new because characters in literary works must be brought to life, given a soul that can be psychologically accountable. The author will consciously or unconsciously incorporate the human soul into his work. The reader will see the human soul in the story's character where the story takes place(Wellek & Warren, 2009).

With the explanation above, it can be concluded that psychology is the study of the human soul, both regarding its symptoms, processes, and background reflected in the behaviour and activities of humans or individuals themselves. In general, psychology is defined as studying human behaviour or studying different emphases, so the definitions are also different. Psychology can help and be used to understand thoroughly the soul and character in literary works.

Psychological theory is a valuable theory because it can help find a someone's personality in a literary work. It is useful because it can help us see fissures, irregularities, changes, and distortions, which are very important in a literary work(Kusmawati, 2019). Psychology in literature is helpful for analyzing characters in dramas and novels. Sometimes, the author unconsciously or consciously can incorporate the psychological theory that he embraces. Psychoanalysis can also analyze the soul of the author through their literary works(Prawira, 2013).

## **B. Sibling Rivalry**

According to Papalia, Old and Feldman, sibling rivalry is conflict, jealousy, or resentment between brothers and sisters(Papalia et al., 2012). Sibling rivalry is a

competition or rivalry, jealousy, and anger between brothers or sisters that occurs between two or more people(Shaffer & Kipp, 2013). In psychological theory, the concept of sibling rivalry is included in the scope of psychoanalysis by looking at the soul or human personality from the subconscious mind(Tyson, 2006).

Sibling rivalry is competition with siblings for the attention and affection of their parents(Tyson, 2006). According to Freud, every siblings should hate one another. Freud stated that siblings are constantly vying for parental love. From this definition, the researcher concludes that sibling rivalry is a feeling of jealousy, anger, competition, and conflict between siblings, stepsisters, and adoptive siblings that occurs to get parental love and attention.

In this research, researcher analyzes sibling rivalry in adulthood. Feelings of envy and hatred for siblings that persist into adulthood will complicate the individual situation, because at the same time adults are required to be able to make adjustments to changes in themselves and their social environment. More deeply, adulthood is a period of transition from adolescence to middle adulthood. Early adulthood starts from the age of 20 years to 40 years. Individuals who are in early adulthood can already know their desires, but do not fully know their role as adults(Papalia et al., 2012).

According to Erikson(in Papalia et al., 2012), adulthood is a time to make commitments with others. Early adults who have made a commitment will develop the value of love. Love is behavior that is mutually devoted to a partner, such as deciding to share life with each other, have children, and take care of the child. If the

individual does not succeed in making a commitment, the early adult individual will feel alienated.

Siblings are an ongoing relationship in adult life as well. Then, in the rivalry between adult siblings, most of them will compete in many things such as love, career, or wealth. In rivalry between siblings, there are some forms such as conflict, jealousy, and resentment (Papalia & Olds, 1985). To get more deeply understanding, the explanation will be clearly stated below:

1. Conflict

Conflict is a process of struggle between two opposing forces who tried to fulfil their own interest (Dewi & Rahayu, 2020). In general, conflict is something dramatic, refers to a fight between two equal forces and implies action and counter measures (Wellek & Warren, 2007). A conflict is a social event that involves opposition and differences of opinion and behavior between two peoples. These behaviours such as fighting, rejecting, and protesting. Often, it happens among siblings in their lives. Feelings of competitions that are quite strong by considering siblings as enemies are a form of conflict between siblings. Thus, the existence of events and conflicts creates sibling rivalry between them. Sibling rivalry is unavoidable with siblings (Borden, 2003).

According to Reis & Sprecher (2009) sibling conflict and rivalry are two different concepts and each has a different meaning. Conflict is a common factor in a relationship, while rivalry occurs because of a fight over something (Reis & Sprecher, 2009). Reis & Sprecher (2009) also say that conflict is an aspect that is believed to

occur because of competition between siblings in problems as adults, such as getting married, having a career, or having children. Thus, it can be interpreted that conflict is the cause or aspect that causes sibling rivalry in adult siblings.

## 2. Jealousy

Jealousy is a defensive response to a seen danger to an esteemed relationship, emerging from a circumstance where the partner's association with action or other individual clashes with the desirous person's definition of their relationship (Graham et al., 1991). Jealousy of siblings arises when one of them is dissatisfied with their parents, who treat their children differently. The quarrels that are constantly nurtured will continue to escalate as a person grows up, they will continue to compete and envy each other (Priatna & Yulia, 2006). Someone will respond to the threat of feeling secure toward their affection for others and the defiant reaction of anyone who threatens them to win or maintain the satisfaction that other people crave. In adult siblings, rivalry can happen because of competition and jealousy of socioeconomic status and a life that is considered more comfortable owned by siblings.

## 3. Resentment

Sometimes, someone will take out feelings of resentment, such as resentment and anger at parents will be taken out on their siblings. It is happening because of the inability to fight against their parents if it relates to the treatment of parents considered different in terms of treatment. Parents are faced with a dilemma when their daughter or son are fight because they are not sure whether and how to intervene. In this sense, there is only one thing that is highlighted in sibling rivalry,

namely the element of competition in this element, including feelings of desire compete, don't want to lose to their sibling, want to get what got their sibling and feelings of jealousy.

### **C. The Causes of Sibling Rivalry**

As we know, conflict between siblings tends to decrease as conflicting siblings live in different places and are busy with their respective affairs so it will be less frequent to see each other. In Shaffer's theory said that the causes of sibling rivalry are the attitude of the parents, competition, and feelings of envy (Shaffer & Kipp, 2013).

#### **1. The Attitude of the Parents**

Parents who tend to like or care about one of their children can lead to jealousy and think that their parents play a favour. Thus, it creates feelings of dislike for their siblings. Parent's favoritism in one daughter or son and the demeanor of comparing daughter or son make the escalated of competition among siblings within the family fortified (Priatna & Yulia, 2006). Parents often unconsciously compare before them, such as who is better at doing something, wiser and prouder. When a person feels that their brother or sister is smarter and more pleasing to their parents, they will begin to compete for the attention and praise of his parents and develop feelings of hatred for his sibling.

## 2. Competition

In sibling rivalry, competition is the desire to be the best and get what you want. Competition is a behavior to achieve certain goals as other people are also struggling to achieve the same thing. Each competes to be better than the other. The younger sibling tries to outdo the older sibling, and the older sibling tries to maintain their position as a person in power. A sibling can be very sensitive to "*who got what*" thoughts, and they often feel they are not getting the same division. On the other hand, other factor like economic factors also affect the competition between siblings(Nandwana & Katoch, 2009).

On the other hand, siblings are not have the same career and life. Thus, this triggers sibling rivalry. When a person always feels defeated and rivaled by their sibling, they will hate their sibling(Pamungkas, 2016). The impact that occurs when the competition gets worse they will be hostile to each other and bring each other down. The experience that a person gets when experiencing sibling rivalry can lead to a wrong self-perception, they will see themselves as a person who is worse and more helpless than other people or relatives.

## 3. Feelings of Envy

Usually shown by seeking excessive attention such as hurting themself when they sees their parents praising their sibling so that parents turn their attention to them(Woolfson, 2004). Someone also shows the opposite attitude, namely being obedient and obedient are fights for the attention of parents.This is marked by a real competitive effort between siblings to seize the attention or love of their parents. To

categorizes sibling rivalry then there must be excessive negative feelings, e.g., lack of positive outlook, bad attitude, attempts to tackle, reluctance to share and lack of friendly interaction.

#### **D. Characterization**

Characterization as one of the components of the novel includes things about the character or actor of the story, their characters, and the way the author presents and describes the feelings (Waluyo, 1994). Characterization refers to depicting a clear picture of a person as portrayed in a story (Nurgiyantoro, 2013). Some characters are honest, helpful, humorous, funny, diligent, respectful, loving, compassionate, patient, and helping each other. Some characters are tough, challenging, irritable, stingy, arrogant, sadistic, rude, jealous, shy, etc.

Characterizations in the story explain the characters that describe in the story. Characteristics help readers understand the storyline as well as the themes that are implied in the story. According to Altenbernd and Lewis (in Nurgiyantoro, 2013), the technique of depicting characters is divided into two; the first is analytical, it is the depiction of story characters which is done by providing descriptions and direct explanations. Then, it is a dramatic way. The author does not directly describe the character's attitudes, traits, and behaviour but allows the character to appear by them through the descriptions of speech and comments or judgments of other characters and actors. This method enables the reader to conclude in themselves of the character.

To find out the existence of sibling rivalry in the story, the researcher focuses on the representation of the main character. The main character is a character whose story is prioritized in a literary work because the main character is the one who is told the most, both as the actor of the event and the subject of the event. Even in certain literary works, the main character is always present in every activity and can be found in each storyline concerned, because the main character is the one who is told the most and is always in contact with other characters.

The main character really determines the overall development in the story. On the other hand, the appearance of additional characters in the whole story is not important, and their existence is only if there is a relationship with the main character, either directly or indirectly. The main character in a literary work may be more than one person, even though the degree of virtue is not (always) the same. Their virtue is determined by their dominance, the number of stories, and their influence on the development of the plot as a whole (Nurdiyanto, 2013). As in the novel *First Comes Love*, the main characters are 2 siblings who are involved a lot in the course of the story.

In other words, to analyze and study the characterization of the main characters especially in sibling rivalry, the researcher uses a theory from Little (1996) in the book *Approach to Literature* about steps to analysis of the main characters which is based on these aspects:

1. Author's speech regarding the characteristics of the perpetrator. It contains the physical of the appearances, related about their age, performance, describe how



old they are, how they look like, about sex both men or women is like have pale skin, handsome or beautiful, long, black or brown, etc.

2. The description provided by the author through the description of the environment and the way he thinks. This point discusses the background of the characters, such as: their educational background, their life in middle, high modern classes.
3. See how the character talks about them. It describes the personality of the main character, such as: how to create romantic situations and see good conditions to play a role, whether or not they are responsible, neat persons or discipline.
4. See how the character reacts to other characters. In this case, the writer wants to discuss the relationship between the major characters and other characters surrounding them (minor characters or supporting characters).

More deeply, the characterization helps to show a clear imagination of a person or something as an object in a literary work. In this case, a novel and the nature of characters can describe sibling rivalry. Really, it doesn't matter who or what the characters are, so long as we can identify ourselves with them, such as how they where they live, how their relationship with another character and so on.

Characteristics are clearly needed to analyze this aspect of psychology. The conflict that occurs can be measured through external events. The image of a certain character is expressed by what the character does. In order to depict a character based on actions, it is necessary to examine some of the events that unfold for the character.

Last, about their unconscious emotional and psychological state and about their conscious attitudes and values(Pickering & Hoeper, 1981).

## CHAPTER III

### FINDING AND DISCUSSIONS

In this chapter will be answer questions from the formulation of the problem. Before answering the question, it is better to look at the problem that has been formulated in the previous chapter. The first problem is what forms of sibling rivalry portrayed in adulthood of the *First Comes Love* novel and the second problem is what causes that illustrated sibling rivalry in the *First Comes Love* novel.

#### **A. The Forms of Sibling Rivalry in Adulthood as Illustrated in *First Comes Love***

##### **1. Conflict**

The first topic in this study is the conflict experienced by two siblings, Josie and Meredith in the novel *First Comes Love*. The story begins when they struggle with the fact that their older brother, Daniel, has died in an accident fifteen years ago. Daniel's death throws Josie and Meredith's lives further apart. The conflict begins when their mother plans a trip to New York to meet Sophie, Daniel's girlfriend, to commemorate Daniel's death. Of course, this is a debate within the family.

In this case, Josie is the one who disagrees the most because she still has deep feelings of grief. Josie's disapproval became the cause of a fight between Josie and Meredith which in the end led to a sibling rivalry between the two. Furthermore, sibling rivalry can shown by a conflict between the two siblings. The quarrel or debate arose because Meredith became an intermediary for her mother to invite Josie

to participate in the anniversary of Daniel's death. Evidence of conflict between the two is reflected in the following conversation:

*Meredith: "She was talking about the fifteen-year anniversary," I begin, choosing my words carefully, and feeling resentful for having to do so. If I could change one thing about Josie—and there are many, many things I'd change—it would be the way she has handled our loss of Daniel. The impenetrable wall she's built around him and his memory" (p.25).*

*Josie: "Anniversary?" she says, picking up her beer, then putting it back on the counter without taking a sip. "I'd hardly call it an anniversary" (p.25).*

In the sentence above, Meredith spoke for the first time to Josie to convey her mother's invitation to commemorate the day Daniel died. Meredith felt lazy to say that because Josie was still lingering in grief after Daniel died. Meredith was annoyed to say so and Josie declined the invitation.

Based on the evidence above, Meredith vents her frustration by wanting to change Josie's mind so that she can think positively and not be sad. Meanwhile, Josie doesn't want to have an anniversary because Daniel's death is not a celebration. Both of them had feelings of resentment. In fact, feelings of resentment can be expressed without hurting the other person so that it can lead to a positive change in behavior. However, in Meredith's context above, Meredith had feelings of annoyance that were expressed only in her heart. Plus, Josie made it clear that the event wasn't worthy of an anniversary. Thus, the relationship between Josie and Meredith creates a conflict that causes division between them.

The conflict over the anniversary of Daniel's death continues in the following evidence:

Meredith: *"It actually is an anniversary."*(p. 25)

Josie: *She shakes her head. "Anniversaries connote celebration. Years you've been married...good stuff...not accidents and death."* (p. 25)

Meredith told Josie that this was a trivial matter because she thought it was just a memorial to Daniel's memory. However, Josie still does not want to follow the invitation because she thinks that the anniversary is not to commemorate death. The two of them kept on believing each other's thoughts so their conflict arose. Every siblings has some unpleasant and some pleasant feelings about each other. The conversation from Josie above also illustrates a satirical sentence aimed at her sister. For her, it doesn't exist to hold a death anniversary because it's not as pleasant to remember like a wedding anniversary. In this context, Josie absolutely refuses the invitation about Daniel's death anniversary.

Josie and Meredith have gone through various models of debate following the conversation quoted above. The conflict is compounded when Meredith says that her mother wants to invite their father to participate in the anniversary of Daniel's death. Their parents were divorced. Of course, Josie disliked the discourse even more. Josie still refuses to go along with Daniel's death anniversary invitation even though Meredith asks her to reconsider. In essence, Josie and Meredith's relationship was

soured by Daniel's departure for good. This is evidenced in the monologue quote from Meredith as follows:

Meredith: *“That Daniel's death was going to push us further apart than we already were”*. (p. 46)

After Daniel's death, their sisterly relationship grew distant. Many things have changed because one of them decided to go far and move house. Therefore, the death of Daniel or the older brother of Josie and Meredith became the main thing that caused a split between them and their families. The existence of a sibling in a family will influence and contribute to someone's social and emotional development. This is especially felt by Josie and Meredith as Daniel's younger sisters. After they have a close relationship with Daniel, then they face the fact that Daniel has passed away. This change can lead to feelings of sadness or disappointment in the situation but reluctant to admit it. So, it becomes the main conflict that triggered sibling rivalry between them.

As time goes by, the conflicts that occur between Josie and Meredith are not far from problems caused by their respective careers and romances. This is the cause of conflict in most adults. The first conflict that made Josie and Meredith's relationship even more heated was when Josie told Meredith that she was going to have dinner with Gabe. Meredith disagrees when Josie befriends, Gabe, just Josie's roommate. The following evidenced by conversation between the two are:

Meredith: *“Where're you headed?” I ask, though I'm really not all that interested.*

Josie: *"I'm meeting Gabe for dinner," she says, tossing her empty beer bottle into the recycling bin.*

Meredith: *"Don't you see him enough as your roommate?" I ask, wondering when that situation will finally implode. No matter what they say, I firmly believe that men and women can't be "just friends," at least not when they're cohabiting.*

Josie: *"You'd be surprised. We both have very busy social lives," she says. "That's what happens when you have friends."*

In the quote between the two above, Meredith doesn't like it when Josie hangs out with Gabe because Josie only considers as her best friend. She thought that men and women could not just be friends or just be friends. Then, Josie felt that Meredith was interfering too much with her friendships. In fact, Josie and Gabe were good friends. In this case, Meredith was only worried about Josie. Worry is usually described as delusional fear or restlessness for no reason. Unlike real fear, worry is not directly evoked by stimuli in the environment but is a product of the mind itself. In the end, Meredith's worries made their sisterly relationship with Josie become a conflict between them. Josie still ignored what Meredith said and went to dinner with Gabe anyway.

Meredith's intention in the quote above is actually to keep her relationship with Josie going well, and hope that Josie will accept her opinion. In this case, Meredith carries out one of the developmental tasks in adulthood, namely building and maintaining the quality of relationships within siblings. If these developmental tasks cannot be carried out properly, it will have an impact on one's happiness or success in old age. One form of not achieving the developmental task of building and

maintaining quality relationships can be reflected in the existence of sibling rivalry that causes prolonged conflict in adulthood.

The next conflict occurs when Josie suddenly invites the whole family for dinner. The whole family was worried, so Meredith kept sulking to be told by Josie right away. Their mother was also worried, she felt that maybe Josie was sick and wanted to tell her family. In fact, Josie slowly brought the news to the rest of her family that she was going to have a baby to be had without getting married. Josie wants to have children by going to a sperm bank so she can get a donor. Of course, it makes her family shocked, especially Meredith. This evidenced in the following excerpt from the conversation:

Meredith: *“Well, it’s all about what you want, isn’t it?” I say.*

Josie: *“What’s that supposed to mean?” Josie asks me. “I’m not allowed to be a mother just because I’m not married? There are plenty of wonderful single parents out there... and conversely, plenty of married people with children who are unhappy, terrible parents.”*

Meredith: *She gives me a purposeful look, clearly talking about my marriage, if not my mothering, and I feel my anger burning deeper, hotter. “Do you really think you’re in a position to judge anyone?” I ask my sister.*

Josie: *“I’m not judging. Nor am I asking for advice or permission. I am simply sharing my plan with the people who matter most to me. And I was sort of hoping for a more supportive reaction. Gabe thinks it’s a great idea.”*

Based on the excerpt of the conversation between Josie and Meredith above, it is clear that Josie has confidence that she can raise children well even though she is not married. She points to a common fact that many people get married and have children



but they were not happy. Josie felt capable of her decision. Josie told this not to seek advice or permission from her family. However, Meredith felt intrigued by what Josie said so that a conflict between them arose. Meredith continued to feel that what Josie's doing was not right and there must be a purpose behind it. Her mother also asked Josie if she was sure of her decision, of course Josie confirmed her mother's suggestion. However, Josie also said that one of the reasons she had children was because her ex-boyfriend's son was in her teaching class. After her confession, Meredith's preconceived notions came true. This is evidenced by the following conversation evidence:

*Josie: "Yes," she says. "I've given it a lot of thought. And to be honest, since having Will's daughter in my class—"*

*Meredith: "I knew it!" I shout, cutting her off. "I knew this was about Will."*

*Josie: "It's not about Will!" she yells back. "It's about Edie and my realization—"*

*Meredith: I interrupted her again. "If you loved him so damn much, why did you screw up that whole relationship?"*

The conflict in the evidence of the conversation above is getting worse when Meredith is really terrible for being too involved with what is going on with Josie and her ex-boyfriend. In this case, Meredith feels that she understands children more than Josie. She wasn't sure about Josie's ability to care for and educate children because she had already experienced it. So, Josie continues to argue with Meredith as follows:

*Josie: "The last time I checked, bringing a child into the world isn't a bad thing."*

Meredith: *“It is if you can’t properly care for it.”*

Josie: *“Who says I can’t properly care for it? I might not have as much money as you two,” she says, “but I have a job— a great job....And I have friends and family who I thought might want to be involved in this child’s life...but I guess that was too much to ask for.”*

In the proof of the sentence above, Josie continues to fight what Meredith doubts. She struggles to fight her decision even though she is not married, then achieves her desire by convincing herself to Meredith that she can raise and raise children even though she doesn't earn as much as Meredith and her husband. In the end, Josie still ignored Meredith's words, who always underestimated the decisions she was about to make. Josie will continue to take sperm donors and be a good parent to her child.

The conflict over Josie's choice to get pregnant still continues. Until finally, Josie broke the news of her pregnancy to her friends. Her friends were also happy because of that. However, when her friend asked if Josie had told Meredith the news, Josie said that she had not told Meredith about the news. Since her decision to go to New York City, she has not communicated with her sibling at all. This is evidenced in the following sentence:

Gabe: *“So how do you know for sure that you’re pregnant?” he asks, sounding a little hopeful, though maybe that part is just in my head.*

Josie: *“About five tests tell me I am.” I force a smile. He smiles back at me, nods, then asks how my parents took the news.*

Gabe: *“I assume they’re excited, too?”*

Josie: *“I haven’t told them yet.”*

Gabe: *“No?” “Your sister?”*

*Josie: "Nope. Still haven't talked to her since I left New York....You're actually the first person I've told," I say*

Based on the evidence above, the conflict between Josie and Meredith has been going on for a long time and they are strong in living a rivalry relationship without communication. Considering that Josie had been in New York for a long time, she had been able to resist communicating with her sibling, Meredith. Josie's behavior is categorized as one of the causes of the emergence of sibling rivalry between Josie and Meredith. Josie pulled away and refrained from communicating with Meredith. Therefore, it can be concluded that Josie's departure to New York and the lack of communication between Josie and Meredith strength their rivalry because of those conflict.

The conflict that occurs between Josie and Meredith looks like a smooth flow and always there. Conflict between them also occurs when Josie and Meredith meet again in New York after they do not meet each others. Meredith realized that Josie's existence was very meaningful because Josie could be a place to vent. However, when the two of them met, Josie suddenly planned a meeting with Sophie (Daniel's ex-girlfriend) to just have a dinner with Meredith. Meredith doesn't want to discuss anything related to Daniel, even to meet people who have been in Daniel's life, Meredith doesn't want to. Then, Meredith was surprise when Josie suddenly said that she was planning a meeting with Sophie. This is quoted in the following conversation:

*Meredith: "She texted you last night?" I say, my voice rising. "And you're just mentioning it to me now?"*

Josie: *"Yeah...I wasn't sure I wanted to do it."*

Meredith: *"I know...but we can always see Sophie again in December...with Mom."*

Josie: *"So we wait fifteen years and then see her twice in a matter of weeks?"*

Meredith: *"Well? Why not?" "Doesn't that seem a bit...excessive?"*

In the quote above, it is clear that Meredith is very angry and shocked by the decisions that Josie always makes. According to her, it was an exaggeration as if she met Sophie more often like 15 years ago when Daniel was around. Meredith doesn't want to see Sophie because in December, her mother will go to New York for the anniversary of Daniel's death and will definitely meet Sophie too. In her opinion, this didn't make sense, because Josie also didn't want anything to do with Sophie from the start but instead suddenly planned a dinner meeting. Conflict continues between them. Josie found Meredith confusing because want to see Sophie anytime wasn't really a problem. In this case, Josie had followed what Meredith and her mother had planned to invite Sophie to commemorate Daniel's death. Josie felt that Meredith was always dissatisfied with what she was doing. This is stated in the following evidence:

Josie: *"But what? Why does everything have to be exactly on your terms?"*

Meredith: *"It doesn't," I say, thinking of how many times she's called me a control freak for simply having an opinion that differs from hers. "I just—"*

Josie: *"You just what, Meredith? Why are you always so dissatisfied with me?" She stands and looks down at me, her hands shoved into her pockets.*

Meredith: *"I'm not," I lie.*

The evidence above illustrates Josie's frustration. How could it not be, Josie felt that Meredith and her mother's wishes had been followed but in a different context, but Meredith still thought that what Josie had done was wrong. In this case, Josie felt emotion. In this context, Josie is influenced by the behavior of her own siblings. Josie describes emotional behavior as something that is unpleasant for her, and it's triggered sibling rivalry.

The next fight between Josie and Meredith occurred when there was an invitation from Josie to eat together. At this dinner, Josie planned to say something about her pregnancy. However, before Josie had said a word, Meredith had already sparked an argument between them. Meredith was either too paranoid or overly concerned about whether what Josie was about to say was safe for her daughter, Harper to hear. The evidences in the following conversation quote:

Meredith: *"Wait," I say, as it occurs to me that her news might not be rated PG. "Are you sure this is okay for Harper to hear?" Josie glares at me.*

Josie: *"Omigod. Could you have any less confidence in me?"*

Meredith: *"I'm sorry," I say. "But I have to put my daughter first."*

Josie: *"Look, Meredith," she snaps back. "I really don't appreciate the implication that I'd do anything—"*

Mom: *"Girls!" Mom pleads. "Please, please don't fight! This is hard enough—"*

In the excerpt of the conversation above, Meredith describes an exaggerated attitude that sparked an argument between her and Josie until her mother intervened and asked to stop arguing. Actually, there was nothing wrong with Meredith's

intention to worry about what Josie would say because she was protecting her child. However, what was to blame was how the negative attitudes and thoughts directed at Josie were an overreaction. In fact, she could have said nicely to Josie, that such a trivial matter shouldn't have sparked a fight between them. The conflict between them was clearly triggered by Meredith's negative reaction.

After the conflict that has been done by Meredith as discussed above, at this time, Josie really feels disappointed and angry at Meredith's attitude. Josie asks if Gabe is okay with what Meredith is doing and Gabe replies that he is fine. However, Josie still felt bad for Gabe. She blamed and regretted what Meredith had done. This is stated in the following evidence:

*Josie: "It's all Meredith's fault," I say. There was no way the rest of us could recover from her outburst and exit, the conversation vacillating between awkward, tense, and downright contentious.*

Josie pours her disappointment on Gabe. This made the feud between Josie and Meredith not subside. This is in line with the theory which says that conflict or disagreement is defined as different opinions between two parties regarding certain issues at the same time. This is caused by Meredith's attitude which always thinks negatively of Josie. So, conflicts between siblings also arise from the negative thoughts of someone like Meredith.

The conflict between Josie and Meredith caused by Meredith's attitude still lingers in Josie's heart. Josie swore at Meredith in front of Gabe with very cornering words. This is expressed by Josie as a form of frustration with Meredith and she has

created a bad atmosphere and relationship in their family. This is evidenced in the following quote:

Josie: "*Meredith has no faith in me whatsoever," I continue. "Did you see how she acted about Harper? It was as if she thought I was going to start discussing orgies or heroin in front of a four-year-old."*

Josie gets very angry with Meredith and looks like what she's about to do is a bad thing or like she's about to talk about heroin. When referring to conflicts that occur in the family, conflict can have a positive or negative impact. The quote mentioned above is an example of how Josie and Meredith are not able to adapt in resolving conflicts both with themselves and conflicts related to their siblings. Therefore, the conflict that made Josie and Meredith more hostile can be concluded that it all stems from the pattern of their sisterly relationship and their own mindset. Absolutely, it's triggered sibling rivalry between them.

## **2. Jealousy**

In this part, researcher will discuss the jealousy aspect that triggers the sibling rivalry between Josie and Meredith in the novel *First Comes Love*. In this discussion, there are several representations of sibling rivalry which are shown through their conversation quotes.

The first indication of jealousy in the novel *First Comes Love* is reflected when Meredith talks with Josie about her father. Meredith feels jealous with Josie because Josie is closer with her father. Josie knows everything about her father. The jealousy that Meredith felt above was expressed by herself through a monologue. It happened

because during the conversation, Josie told Meredith that her father had a new girlfriend. The conversation about their father continued because of their mother's initiative to invite his father to dinner. Meredith was annoyed and jealous that Josie was indeed closer to their father so Josie knew beforehand.

*Meredith: "He does?" I ask, feeling a stab of resentment, but also jealousy that she has a closer relationship with our father. "Since when?" (p.26).*

Meredith's jealousy is indirectly caused by their father's unfair behavior in sharing time with his daughters. Therefore, this triggers a sibling rivalry between them. Hostility that occurs between siblings is often marked by disputes over time, attention, love, and parental affection given to each of their daughter or son. So, it can be said that even though Josie and Meredith are adults, the role of parents still influences the sibling rivalry between them. As a result, Meredith will feel constantly competing with Josie and envious of each other.

Then, the indication of sibling rivalry in the jealousy aspect also occurred through the conversation between Meredith and her mother. Her mother thought that Josie was jealous of Meredith because Meredith had a perfect life. Meredith has a husband, children, and having a great job.

*Meredith: "I sigh, thinking that this is how my mother always paints things. How they both insist that Josie's jealous of me" (p.109).*

Apart from the quote above, it is only the perception of Josie and Meredith's mother, but it triggers another fight between Josie and Meredith. Meredith would hate



Josie even more for thinking she had nothing to be proud of her life. On the other hand, Josie and Meredith's mother shouldn't have expressed her opinion in front of Meredith. This is because Meredith might think that her mother knows more about Josie than she does, as if she were more defensive of Josie and cornered Meredith.

The next jealousy aspect happened to Meredith again. At this time, Meredith was disappointed because on her graduation day her parents only gave Daniel the briefcase that was given to Daniel's twenty-fifth birthday. She became very disappointed and she was jealous of Josie because Josie got everything more than she did.

*Meredith: "At my law school graduation, my parents presented me with my brother's briefcase, the same one they had given him on his twenty-fifth birthday. It was a moment that was more bitter than sweet, and I remember feeling intensely jealous of my sister's end of the bargain. I had a law degree and a briefcase. She had real happiness. Her life as a teacher seemed easy, punctuated by one happy hour and road trip after another. Most important, she had someone to love."(p. 65).*

In the quote above, Josie and Meredith's parents indirectly treat them differently. In fact, Meredith graduated from law school but only got Daniel's used briefcase. Of course, as a daughter she would be disappointed even though she didn't really expect anything. On the other hand, Meredith turns to the time when Josie graduated and her life as a teacher looks fun especially when Josie seems to have no burden. In this case, Meredith saw that there was a difference between herself and Josie in terms of academics, talents, or interests in certain things, and the attitude of their parents

towards each of them. Therefore, these differences can lead to envy and feelings of rivalry until finally sibling rivalry arises.

Meredith flashed another image of jealousy when she was chatting with her friend. Her friend said Meredith looked more like Daniel than Josie. However, Meredith still feels jealous because Josie was closer to Daniel during her lifetime. Meredith always compares herself and Josie so she is jealous of Josie's life so Meredith hates Josie even more. The jealousy feelings raised as follows:

*Meredith: "I nodded. "Yeah, she's a straight extrovert. Party girl. But it's weird....I'm more like Daniel, but he was closer to her." I felt a stab of jealousy, then guilt for feeling jealous.*

*Meredith: "Daniel was drawn to people like you...and her"(p. 48).*

In the quote above, it is clear that the jealousy aspect is directly expressed by Meredith. She felt Josie won a lot because she was closer to Daniel. In this case, jealousy is created between siblings. So, it could be argued that Meredith found Daniel more comfortable in his life with Josie than with her. So, Meredith's hatred for Josie is getting stronger. Meredith creates complex emotions, thoughts and behaviors that can destroy their long-standing sibling rivalry..

### **3. Resentment**

Sometimes, someone will take out feelings of resentment, such as resentment and anger that will be taken out on their siblings. It happens because of the inability to fight against their sibling if it relates to the treatment of siblings considered different in terms of treatment. The evidence of a resentment in the *First Comes Love* novel

occurred when Meredith spoke again of Daniel's death anniversary in another context to Josie. Of course Josie had understood it. This makes Meredith insist on inviting Josie to obey her mother's request. Meredith said it was just a birthday meal. Until finally, Meredith was annoyed and felt Josie's requests and wishes were always obeyed. This is evidenced in the following sentence:

*Meredith: "Don't you get my point? At all? That we always do things your way...on your terms?"*

Based on the quote above, Meredith clearly avoids or seems resentful when all Josie's wishes must be obeyed and she must always force Josie to do something. It could be categorized as resentment, because Meredith didn't seem happy when her sister always wins of her own accord. Meredith hates her sister because it is considered a threat or obstacle in her life. It can be assumed that sibling rivalry behavior can make someone pretend not to love their sibling.

Josie's words in the quote discussed above make Josie ask Meredith why Meredith hates her so much. In fact, their meeting at that time was aimed at discussing Meredith and Nolan's divorced household. However, Meredith also expresses her frustration with Josie because her mother always forces her to reconcile or invites Josie to go to Daniel's death anniversary. Then, Meredith says the following:

*Meredith: "I don't hate you," she says, giving me a look like she does. "I'm just sick and tired of everything revolving around you. Your timing. Your plans. It's always about you, Josie."*

In this case, Meredith shows annoyance, anger, or hatred because Josie is always being accepted in all her preferences. It can be concluded that the sibling rivalry that occurs between Josie and Meredith is hatred. In the context of sibling rivalry, someone who is a rival is a sibling who is the center of attention and is the object of competition.

Another case that shows sibling rivalry and expressed hatred is raised by Josie. At that time, she was introducing herself in front of her first year students. Then, she said hate speech against Meredith. She did it because she felt he was not on good terms with Meredith. Even if she's having communication with Meredith, it's only about Harper (Meredith's daughter). This is evidenced in the following sentence:

*Josie: "I have a dog, and a sister named Meredith. She drives me nuts, and I would mostly avoid her altogether if it weren't for my niece, Harper"*

In this case, Josie hates Meredith for her unfair treatment. So, it's triggers a rivalry between them. Competition with siblings is a feeling of jealousy or hatred that generally happens to someone because of their siblings. In the above case, Josie's role is to mock Meredith by bringing up bad words in front of other people. She also said that he was forced to communicate with Meredith when it was important, such as taking care of her daughter, Harper.

After Meredith issued a statement that none of her family dared to reprimand Josie for her behavior as quoted in the previous paragraph, the argument between Josie and Meredith continued. It started when Josie asked how her family was doing,

then Meredith replied with a sarcastic sentence because Meredith waited too long for Josie to say what she wanted to say. This annoyed Meredith and is evidenced in the following sentence:

*Josie: "Hey!" she says, all easy-breezy. "How is everyone?"*

*Meredith: "Just fabulous!" I say as sarcastically as possible as Nolan sits on the other side of me and squeezes my knee, in an attempt to either reprimand or calm me.*

Josie stares me down, crosses her arms, and says,

*Josie: "Okay. That was so fake."*

In the excerpt of the conversation above, it shows that the sentence uttered by Meredith describes her annoyed feelings while waiting for Josie. However, it was realized by Josie that Meredith was teasing her with that sentence. The role of sarcasm in Meredith's words in the above evidence causes Josie to feel hurt, thus making the competition between them even more heated. It is often realized that because of someone's words, someone can be hurt or hate that person. This also happened to Josie and Meredith. Therefore, it can be concluded that sibling rivalry occurs when Meredith expresses it by mocking or pranking Josie with her bad words.

In sibling rivalry when they are in adulthood, each competes to be better than the other. The younger sibling tries to outdo the older sibling, and the older sibling tries to maintain their position as a person in power. One of the sibling rivalries form in resentment occurred when Meredith borrowed a CD from Daniel during her lifetime,

then Daniel advised her to be careful when putting it on so she wouldn't get scratched. Then Meredith replied confidently that she wouldn't be so careless because she felt Josie was younger than her so Josie would be careless easily. This is reflected in the following sentence:

*Meredith: "I'm not Josie. I don't trash things," she said. She knew her expression was morose, but she couldn't change it, blaming PMS, the weather, and her older sister, who had pissed her off before she left the house in jeans too tight and a top too small.*

In the sentence mentioned above, Meredith does not want to be compared to Josie because she feels more capable of everything. These different patterns eventually cause each person to grow up with her own perception of their siblings. The position of Josie and Meredith as the second and youngest daughter affects the existence of sibling rivalry between them. Meredith's existence as a substitute for the eldest daughter because Daniel has died may be the process of becoming someone who is responsible, protecting others, or otherwise becoming a person who feels insecure and poor in social interest.

However, in this case Meredith is still difficult to position herself as an example of her younger sister. In fact, she often cursed her sister in their circle, even in front of Josie. Older siblings were better suited as friends of opposite-sex siblings than same-sex siblings. This is in line with Josie and Meredith's sibling relationship, they are siblings of the same sex and may be more sensitive to issues of competition. As a result, they may not care about their sibling.

In this novel, Josie and Meredith are siblings of the same gender. They often fight over something that is not really worth fussing about. On one occasion, Josie was talking about Meredith and Daniel in front of her family, including Meredith. However, Josie boldly insinuated Meredith's bad character compared to Daniel. The evidenced in the following quote:

*Meredith: "He's supportive.... Unlike my sister, who is her usual judgmental self." (p. 219)*

In the quote above, it is clear that Josie underestimates Meredith's character even in front of her family and Meredith herself. That ended up bringing Meredith to tears and not wanting to talk to Josie at all that day. Based on the quote above, it's indicates the existence of sibling rivalry in Josie and Meredith.

Another case, one of the bad traits is described by Meredith towards Josie when they are together at their mother's house. While having a serious conversation, Josie suddenly ignored everyone in the room including Meredith. Josie behaved like that because she didn't want to argue any further about her choice of sperm donor. Therefore, Josie's attitude made Meredith think negatively as follows:

*Meredith: "I sigh and watch her walk out of the room. Seconds later, I hear her and Harper squealing with laughter, corroborating one of two theories I've always had about my sister. That either (a) she uses children to hide her real adult emotions, or (b) she is still a child herself" (p. 27).*

From the quote above, it explains that Meredith was mocked by thinking Josie was still childish or Josie was just pretending. Meredith's thinking was a bad trait that made her even more resentful and wondering what wasn't really going on with Josie.

Meredith are sarcastic, judgmental and dismissive behavior. This behavior leads to the emergence of sibling rivalry. In this case, negative feelings are more likely to be expressed verbally so that the competition can be handled well.

The problems that caused the sibling rivalry between Josie and Meredith still continue. It started when a friend from Meredith asked Meredith to leave Harper, her daughter, to Josie because Meredith was having a problem to solve. However, Meredith firmly rejected what her friend was saying. Meredith gave off a sense of selfishness, when in fact she needed Josie's presence. In the end, Meredith remained unwilling and disowned Josie in her role of guarding Harper. This evidenced in the following quote:

*Meredith: "I wouldn't call my sister particularly competent," I say, but feel my first real urge to talk to her since our fight, if only for Harper's sake.*

Based on the quote above, Meredith's character describes her selfish nature because she doesn't recognize Josie's role in taking care of her child. A selfish person is a person who sees everything from her own eyes. She cannot understand people's thoughts, people's feelings and always demands people to follow her opinion. Therefore, it can be concluded that Meredith's quote above is actually detrimental to herself because she can't find a nanny for her child in a short time. The influence of the sibling rivalry between Josie and Meredith is so strong that it creates problems that keep popping up.



Another case that makes sibling rivalry between them also appears based on their respective personalities. In this case, Meredith makes up for herself by saying that the bad things that happened after Daniel's death shouldn't have happened to her. Instead, she said that Josie deserved the worst. This triggers a rivalry that occurs between Josie and Meredith which results in continuously blaming and cornering her own sibling. This is evidenced in the following quote:

*Meredith: "It was the kind of inappropriate thing that would happen to Josie, not me. And yet, there it was—as unmistakable as my clammy hands and racing, guilty heart".*

Meredith's personality in the quote above shows that each individual has their own character. This affects the existence of sibling rivalry because among them there are those who sincerely accept things that sometimes cause feelings of envy to siblings, but there are also individuals who do not want to lose to their siblings. In this case, Meredith instead cornered Josie because she felt it was unfair if bad things happened to her.

All in all, it can be said that Meredith is not ready to replace Daniel as the eldest sibling. Thus, she feels that her burden is heavy and tends to corner Josie, who she thinks is more appropriate to carry a heavy burden. If a person has not acquired a strong self-identity and a strong ego in adulthood, a person will develop unhealthy obligations and will avoid taking responsibility for new tasks that must be carried out.

The next hatred is raised by Meredith when she gathers with Josie and her friends. Meredith, who had always been at odds with Josie from the start, was getting more and more into trouble between the two of them. This is evidenced by:

*Meredith: "They bought it. And I have no idea what they paid for it," I say, despising the way Josie talks about money.*

*Josie: "Must be nice," she says under her breath, "having that kind of loot."*

*Meredith: "Better than being broke, I guess," I say, refraining from my usual commentary about how money can't buy you happy.*

*Josie: "Yeah...that's an understatement," Josie says with a laugh, picking up a little bronze Buddha from an end table. "This is cute."*

In the quote above proves that Meredith does not agree with Josie's mindset. Josie takes money for granted, in the sense that if there is money, we will be happy. Meanwhile, according to Meredith money can't buy happiness. The different mindsets between the two prove that their sibling relationship often experiences differences of opinion which result in them having to disagree and hate each other. Even though the hatred didn't come out of Meredith's speak right away, but in Meredith's heart it made a sibling rivalry between them more strength.

## **B. The Causes of Sibling Rivalry**

### **1. The Attitude of The Parents**

In the novel *First Comes Love*, their parents' form of favoritism begins when Josie invites all her family members in a group chat and says she wants to say something. However, for a long time, Josie did not talk as soon as possible. This

worries her mother and continues to terrorize Meredith to call or tell Josie what really happened.

Meredith followed her mother's wishes, and when she called Josie she asked how she was doing at the school where she taught. Josie replied that it had been a pretty tiring day. Then, Meredith conveyed this to her mother. So, her mother was increasingly worried about what was really going on. Meredith played down what was going on, and her mother told Meredith to either be nice to Josie or just care. However, it certainly makes Meredith angry and hate her sister because of her mother's attitude which is reflected in the following quote:

*Meredith: I sigh, taking her off speaker. "I'm trying, Mom. But it's hard....She's so selfish. Everything is about her. This email is a case in point."*

*Mom's: "Meredith. Please give your sister a chance," she says. "You always assume the worst about her. Maybe she wants to talk about Daniel and our trip to see Sophie. Or —"*

In the evidence above, it is clear that Meredith was annoyed at being fed up with always being the middleman between her mother and Josie. He hated Josie even more when his mother also told him to think more positively rather than badmouthing Josie's behavior. Therefore, Josie felt that her mother always forced her to think positively about Josie. So, whatever it was that had to do with Josie, Meredith didn't welcome it. This reaction is evidenced in the following quote:

*Meredith: I cut her off, confident that this meeting has nothing whatsoever to do with Daniel. "I'll tell you what," I say. "Let's see what she wants to discuss. If it's*

*not something completely self-serving, I'll start giving her a chance."*

The role of parents is very influential on sibling relationships. In the proof of two sentences above, the role of the mother of Josie and Meredith made Meredith even more angry. In the proof of two sentences above, the role of the mother of Josie and Meredith made Meredith even more angry. Her mother didn't seem to want to hear Meredith, kept blaming her and defending Josie. In this case, Josie and Meredith's mother treats them seems to be the driving force behind the sibling rivalry. Parenting patterns taught by parents in everyday life will affect someone's tendency towards sibling rivalry.

On the other hand, the influence of the presence of parents also affects the existence of sibling rivalry. This happens when Josie and Meredith's parents gather them for dinner and tell them the news that they have decided to divorce. Their parents' decision dealt a heavy blow to Josie and Meredith, especially Meredith. Not yet healed when Daniel died, now they have to face the fact that his parents chose to divorce. This is evidenced in the quote uttered by Meredith as follows:

*Meredith: "That Christmas break, just after the one-year anniversary of Daniel's death, my parents sat Josie and me down in our kitchen and announced that they were splitting up—their euphemism for divorce. I knew things had been rocky, and that my dad was drinking again, but I still felt blindsided, devastated by this second huge blow to our family. Without my big brother and the mooring of my parents' marriage, it was as if I no longer had a family at all".*

Based on the quote above, Meredith feels as if she has lost her family. The decisions of her parents complete the burden of her life. Meredith mentions that because of all this, it's like she doesn't have a family anymore. In fact, she still has Josie. However, from the start, she and Josie never got along, especially after Daniel died. Plus, now that her parents are divorced, their sisterly life will be increasingly distant. Divorce is an event that is certainly not wanted by their parents. In Meredith's perception, divorce is considered a nightmare because she considers that the divorce experienced by her parents is a sign of death for the integrity of her family.

In this case, the divorce of her parents certainly has consequences that Meredith and Josie have to face, namely to accept the sadness and deep feelings of loss. When a parent's divorce occurs, a person will give an emotional reaction which is common at all ages, both children and adults will feel sadness, fear, depression, anger, and confusion (Handianti et al., 2017). Thus, Meredith's sentence quoted above is a reaction of rivalry so that she does not consider Josie's existence. In fact, they both feel the impact of their parents' divorce.

Parents are the key of the influencing sibling rivalry, but parents are also the ones who can minimize the occurrence of sibling rivalry. The concept of family roles has a major influence on the relationship between siblings. Parents are the key to the emergence of sibling rivalry and also play a role in minimizing the emergence of it.

## 2. Competition

Josie and Meredith are both competing for their good living. Josie with the choice of having children without marrying, and Meredith who continues to confuse what Josie is doing because she has experience as a mother. The competition between them continues from the previous conflict, when they argue over Josie's choice to have children without getting married. The competition between them arises when Josie says that she can take good care of children, just like she took care of Meredith's children. Then, Josie sets out to compete with Meredith on how well they care for or raise children properly. This is evidenced in the following sentence:

*Josie looks at me, waiting.*

*Meredith: "Sure." I shrug. "I'll breeze in for a quick game of Twister...then be on my merry way....Isn't that what aunts do?"*

*Josie: "Wow. That is so unfair," Josie says. "I'm totally involved in Harper's life."*

In the sentence above, Meredith mocks that it is enough to take care of small children by simply inviting them to play Twister, as Josie did with her daughter. Of course, Josie did not accept what Meredith said. Josie genuinely cared for Harper, Meredith's daughter. So, Josie was very upset at being belittled by Meredith. Then, Meredith still thinks that being an aunt will be easier than being a mother. In this case, Meredith seemed to scare Josie that motherhood was hard and hard. This is evidenced in the following sentence:

Meredith: *“Okay. Fine. But do you have any clue how much easier it is to be an aunt than a mother?”*

Seeing Meredith's words like that, Josie became angry and uttered a harsh sentence about Meredith which made her reprimanded by Nolan, Meredith's husband. The rivalry between Josie and Meredith grew hotter until Meredith ended the speech like this:

Meredith: *“No. I can't,” I say, shaking my head. Then, talking about my sister in the third person, I add, “Would someone please tell her that bringing a child into the world is the hardest thing you can do?”*

In the sentence above, Meredith was tired of forcing her opinion on Josie. She says that being a mother is difficult. Meredith's attitude always forced Josie to accept her opinion.

Lastly, the following description of competition is also illustrated through Meredith's monologue conversation. She told herself that she was jealous of Josie because Josie could do whatever she liked. Of course this is different from her who can not be free to do anything, considering that Meredith is married and has one child. Meanwhile, Josie is free because she is not married.

Meredith: *“The fact that she has always done exactly what she wants, when she wants, how she wants. My sister puts herself first, period. And maybe, for this reason alone, I'm actually the one who is a little bit jealous of her” (p. 110).*

Based on the quote above, Meredith is always comparing herself to Josie. Someone is not always ready to compete with their siblings. Also, someone can

become depressed. So, if she constantly compares with her sibling, she will hate her sibling even more and cause sibling rivalry.

The feeling of not wanting to be rivaled which makes the sibling rivalry between Josie and Meredith stronger is also triggered by Meredith's behavior. This happens when Nolan (Meredith's husband) invites her to move to New York and leave her hometown, Atlanta. Nolan said they had to move on soon and had a brilliant idea as their solution like Josie. At the mention of Josie's name, Meredith felt disapproving. What's more, Nolan also discussed that Josie is a brave and tough woman to be a single mother. This only fueled her dislike of Josie and she felt that she was no better than her. The proof of the conversation is as follows:

Nolan: *"Let's really, really think about it. Let's think outside the box...like Josie...."*

Meredith: *My shoulders immediately tense at the mention of my sister—whom I've yet to communicate with since she left New York in the middle of the night.*

Nolan: *"Say what you will about her," Nolan continues. "And I get it...she can be a real pain in the ass. But the girl knows how to think outside the box."*

Meredith: *"She's selfish," I say, the default tagline I give my sister.*

Nolan: *"Is she, though?" he asks. "Or is she just trying to be true to herself? Having a baby alone is really brave."*

Meredith: *"She won't go through with it," I say. "She's not that brave."*

Nolan: *"Maybe, maybe not. But we can be. Let's be brave together, Meredith. Can you just keep an open mind and give it one more, last-ditch try?"*



The evidence from the conversation above clearly shows that Meredith doesn't like when Josie is complimented well by her husband. She also doesn't like if Josie has a better character than her. Meredith felt so rivaled and a little bit offended that she kept saying bad words about Josie. Meredith's feelings were a sense of competition that actually arose as a result of having been in competition with Josie from the start. Without realizing that actually as family members, they are related to each other and feelings of competition arise because of rivalry. Meredith hides her disbelief by ignoring Josie's abilities. In this case, Josie and Meredith's relationship will determine how they will come to terms with their sense of competition, the desire to be the best, and getting what they want.

### **3. Feelings of Envy**

Meredith also brought up the hate speech that triggered the sibling rivalry when they were having a family event at Josie's house. However, Josie feels hate and dislike when she sees Gabe, who is only Josie's housemate. She felt that during family events it was inappropriate to invite or see other people in it. This is evidenced in the following sentence:

*Meredith: Obviously I know he and Josie are housemates, but for some reason, I didn't expect to see him tonight, and his sullen presence irritates me more than usual. Or perhaps I'm just a little more irritated with Josie for pulling this stunt, including a non-family member, and not even bothering to show up on time.*

Based on the quote above, Meredith expressed her displeasure at seeing Gabe at her family gathering. It could be said that Meredith felt that Josie was always messing

things up and always doing her own thing. This indicates that the relationship between siblings between them can not go well. Meredith envied Josie and saw Josie as the cause of the loss of enjoyment and warmth that existed in her family. Meredith's envy because of Josie. It is something that can lead to conflict and negative rivalry between siblings. In this case, the lost intimacy between Josie and Meredith creates rivalry.

Meredith's distaste for having Gabe join them at their family events continues. While they were chatting, Meredith uttered a sentence that struck a chord with everyone present. Meredith felt that her family didn't dare to reprimand Josie for taking Gabe. Meredith feels her family's treatment of Josie is unfair. Thus, his feelings of irritation are expressed directly in the following evidence:

*Meredith: I make a snide comment about Josie's time being more valuable than anyone else's. Nobody bothers to defend her because they can't.*

It can be concluded that based on the evidence above, Meredith feels that her family treats Josie differently. Her family had nothing to rebuke Josie. In fact, in her family event it is inappropriate if there are other people. Josie's demeanor expresses feelings as varied as irritation and anger or even jealousy. Meredith's feelings of anger, jealousy, and hurt because of sibling rivalry can carry over at any time.

The cause of the sibling rivalry that occurred between Josie and Meredith, whether consciously or not has been clearly acknowledged or disclosed by Josie to Meredith. At that time, Josie told Meredith that she had just met their childhood

friend named Shawna. Shawna invites the two of them to meet, but Meredith feels that Shawna is closer to Josie than she is because Shawna doesn't ask how Meredith is, but immediately understands that Josie and Meredith haven't spoken to each other for some time. This makes Meredith's feelings a little sensitive and makes the sibling rivalry between them look real.

*Meredith: "Did she ask about me?" I say against my better judgment. Meredith always accuses me of making things all about myself.*

*Josie: "No...but she did tell me y'all haven't talked in months?" I detect a note of satisfaction in her voice, and feel another wave of irritation along with a stab of sibling rivalry at the mention of Shawna, our only shared friend growing up.*

*Josie: "I wouldn't say months...but it's been a while."*

*Josie: "She wants to get drinks...."*

The evidence of the conversation they show above shows that the sibling rivalry that occurs between them also affects their friendship. As Shawna gets closer to Josie, Meredith becomes more jealous and sensitive. This proves that sibling rivalry makes one of them more sensitive, irritable, and offended. It arises because of the uncomfortable feeling when seeing other people know what is happening in the sibling relationship between them. In addition, the quote above shows that Meredith is envious to Josie because Josie has already met or got along with their best friend, Shawna. So, trivial issues like this make the sibling rivalry between them stick out even more. Although, Shawna invites the two of them to meet.

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

At the end of this thesis, the researcher put forward some conclusions and suggestions based on the findings of the research and the descriptions in the previous chapters regarding the problem studied, namely the sibling rivalry analysis in adults in the novel *First Comes Love*.

#### A. Conclusion

In this study, the researcher analyzes the sibling rivalry that occurs in the novel *First Comes Love* by Emilly Giffin in 2016 and focuses on the main characters named Josie and Meredith. Josie and Meredith are a sibling with Meredith as an older sister. Their sisterly life gradually deteriorated since their eldest brother, Daniel, passed away. The researcher aims to find out what makes sibling rivalry in Josie and Meredith's appear in adulthood and what causes sibling rivalry between them. Researcher analyzed this study using a psychology literary criticism and uses Papalia-Olds and Feldman's theory and Shaffer and Kipp's theory.

The researcher found that the forms of sibling rivalry that occurs in adulthood is because of conflict, jealousy, and resentment. Conflict is an aspect that is believed to occur because of competition between siblings in problems as adults, such as getting married, having a career, or having children. In this novel, Meredith always interferes in Josie's friendship and gives advice to Josie so that Josie is careful in making friends. However, it certainly did not like Josie so Josie denied what Meredith

wanted. They kept arguing until Meredith was annoyed. All conflicts that occur between them trigger sibling rivalry in their adulthood.

The second form is about jealousy. In this novel, Meredith's jealousy is indirectly caused by their father's unfair behavior in sharing time with his daughter. Adults who are involved in sibling rivalry with their siblings will tend to show their jealousy and act without thinking. The last thing that indicates sibling rivalry in adulthood is resentment. Meredith does not want to be compared to Josie because she feels more capable of everything. These different patterns eventually cause each person to grow up with her own perception of their siblings.

Furthermore, the data found that the causes of sibling rivalry in the novel *First Comes Love* are the attitude of the parents, competition, and feelings of envy. This happened when Josie and Meredith's mother was worried about Josie not replying messages. However, her mother had Meredith ask Josie directly. It certainly makes Meredith angry and hate her sister because of her mother's attitude. Even though the siblings are adults, the role of parents is still influential.

The second factor is competition. The competition that occurred in Josie and Meredith were both competing for their good living. In sibling rivalry when they are in adulthood, each competes to be better than the other. The younger sibling tries to outdo the older sibling, and the older sibling tries to maintain their position as a person in power. Lastly, the cause of sibling rivalry is feeling of envy. Meredith envied Josie and saw Josie as the cause of the loss of enjoyment and warmth that

existed in her family. In this case, the lost intimacy between Josie and Meredith creates rivalry.

## **B. Suggestion**

Based on the research results obtained from the data in the novel, basically this research went well. However, it is not a mistake if the researcher wants to put forward some suggestions that hopefully will be useful for the progress of literary research in general. The suggestions that researchers put forward are as follows:

1. To readers

Based on what the researcher has examined in this study, the researcher realizes that in everyday life there will definitely be cases similar to this topic, namely the case of sibling rivalry. The problem of sibling rivalry, we will either face it alone or just see. Thus, researcher expects the readers to not only know the contents of a literary work, but also know the meaning and messages and lessons contained so that they can take advantage contained in literary works, especially in the novel *First Comes Love* in dealing with cases of sibling rivalry and to address the problems faced. and can be used as a guide in determining attitudes.

2. For the next researcher

In reviewing this study, the researcher realized that the topic of sibling rivalry that occurs in adults is still rarely encountered in a study. In fact, this topic is interesting to study because sibling rivalry that occurs in adults is still

often encountered in everyday life. Researcher also realize that this study is limited to discussing factors and sibling rivalry that occurs in adults. However, the researcher believes that in the novel *First Comes Love* there are still many interesting aspects to study, such as an in-depth study of the character's personality.

The researcher hopes that this research will help develop further research that can be conducted more in-depth on sibling rivalry that occurs in adults. Further research is also expected to be able to examine more sources or references related to sibling rivalry that occurs in adults as well as the factors that cause sibling rivalry to appear so that the research results can be better and more complete.

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## CURRICULUM VITAE



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