



PREJUDICIAL MOTHERHOOD IN ARMANDO LUCAS CORREA'S NOVEL *THE DAUGHTER'S TALE* (2019)

Sherina Alsyifa Amran¹, Desvalini Anwar²

English Department

Faculty of Languages and Arts

Universitas Negeri Padang

email: sherinaalsyifa@gmail.com

Abstract

This thesis analyzes a novel entitled *The Daughters' Tale* (2019) by Armando Lucas Correa. This analysis reveals prejudicial motherhood experienced by a mother trying to keep her daughters safe from persecution found in the literary work. This analysis uses the psychoanalysis theory by Sigmund Freud to explain the problems of this novel. The result of the study shows Amanda Sternberg experienced prejudicial motherhood in two ways, difficulties to make right decisions and perilous decisions, and it has several effects such as family separation and the death of Amanda Sternberg.

Key words: *prejudicial, motherhood, maternal instinct, life-death instinct*

A. INTRODUCTION

A novel entitled *The Daughters' Tale* (2019) by Armando Lucas Correa reflects the issue of prejudicial motherhood. The main character reflects on the issues of prejudicial motherhood in making decisions that will decide the family's future. It is experienced by the main character, Amanda Sternberg, a mother of two daughters in Jews family. They are a family that lived in Germany during Nazi era. They need to escape from Germany to avoid persecution. The tragedy starts when the mother suddenly makes decisions because she gets swayed by her emotion. One prejudicial decision that the mother makes at the moment triggers other prejudicial decisions from the mother in this surviving journey.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses the descriptive method since the data is taken from the novel using quotation and interpretation. According to Igwenagu (2016), descriptive research is a type of research that uses a theory to focus on a specific phenomenon

¹ English ELLSP of English Department of FBS Universitas Negeri Padang graduated on March 2023

² Lecturer of English Department of FBS Universitas Negeri Padang



or situation. This analysis will focus on analyzing the main character's prejudicial motherhood from many points of view. The object of this research is a novel entitled *The Daughters' Tale* (2019) by Amando Lucas Correa. This analysis will reveal prejudicial motherhood in making decisions that are related to Sigmund Freud's (1940) concept of maternal instinct and life instinct

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. The Forms of Prejudicial Motherhood

This part discusses the forms of prejudicial motherhood in the novel *The Daughter's Tale* (2019) in the mother's decisions for her family. These decisions are strongly affected by the motherhood side of the protagonist. Thus, there are several forms of prejudicial motherhood.

1.1 Difficulties To Make Right Decisions

The difficulties in making decisions that the effects of prejudicial motherhood cause the protagonist faces in the novel *The Daughters Tale* (2019). This quotation below will show the difficulties that Amanda faces:

At that instant, amanda's face cleared and she smiled at them. the girls breathed a sigh of relief, but Lina was still unsure. She sensed that her mother had made a decision that would change them forever, a decision she could not yet define. Maybe she had decided it was too risky to send them on their own to an island where the summer was scorching hot; or possibly it was her mother who would leave on the boat to see if uncle abraham was happy to receive them. maybe it would be her and viera who ended up on the farm in france, surrounded bythe sheep as they waited for the rescue signal from their mother.(p.54)

In this quotation, it can be seen that Amanda still has doubts about whether she needs to send the daughters to the Caribbean or bring them to France and protect them by herself. They encountered the impacts of Jew's persecution by the Nazis, which urged them to leave the country as soon as possible. The situation's impact makes Amanda need to make a critical decision in the continuity of her family life. Here, as a mother, she feels doubted in making decisions because she also feels that leaving the daughters alone on the ship will cause them much harm. It can be seen in the phrase, "she sensed that her mother had made the decision that would change them forever, a decision she could not yet define." Even the daughter can feel her mother's doubts and is unsure about her decision. This proves that Amanda's decision is unlikely to be the right thing to do, and every character in the novel doubts that.

1.2 Perilous decisions

Another form of prejudicial motherhood that the character faces is making perilous decisions after Viera and her family is separated. Amanda, the mother, is filled with her feeling as a mother that influences all her actions afterward.

One damp summer's night, she sealed the envelope and put it into the red mailbox up by the town's main street. Three days and two storms went by before the mailman collected it. From there maybe he would take it to Limoges, where it would be processed and sent on to its destination. Who knew whether letters destined for the far side of the Atlantic had to go through Paris? Amanda discussed this endlessly as she helped Claire in the kitchen or two of them sat together to knit scarves for the winter while the girls run about, climbed on branches, or collapsed into the already withered flowers alone.

In this quotation, it can be seen that Amanda is making an impulsive decision by sending letters to her daughter in the Caribbean by using her true identity while she is for sure knowing that they are the runaways that need to keep their identity safe and sound. Her impulsive behavior is triggered by her motherhood side, which misses the daughter so much. The bond between mother and daughter triggers an impulsive action that happens to be a decision that could put the family at risk. Revealing their true identity to the authority is the same as allowing the Nazis to track them down. This perilous decision can only happen because of the mother's prejudicial side, which only thinks about her feelings without judging the decision logically.

2. The effects of prejudicial motherhood to Amanda's family

2.1 Family separation

The first effect is a family separation where the daughters and the mother cannot see each other again forever.

"Her name is Viera," said Amanda, pointing to her. "She's older, she's be able to manage it, she's going to be six. Lina is still very small; she's only four." The woman nodded silently. A gentle light had come into her eyes. Amanda understood her earlier rejection. Frau Meyer must have silently questioned her as a mother: how could she bring herself to abandon her daughter to two strangers? But she herself was boarding the ship out of despair, and Amanda's situation was doubtless even more desperate.

In this quotation, it can be seen that the protagonist only takes one of her daughters and lets the other daughter sail to the Caribbean by herself. Here, the

mother separates the siblings and lets the other child suffers alone. This maternal instinct effect leads her to make a prejudicial decision where she thinks that the older daughter will survive alone while the other child is better off going with her. This is harmful to the youngest daughter, as reflected in this quotation:

Amanda didn't get involved in these new escape plans. She thought that she was paying for the guilt of having betrayed her husband by not sending Lina to Cuba with Viera. If she had done so, both would now be safe. But the damage was done, and it was irreparable. There was no way back.

It can be seen that Amanda's impulsive decision has trapped the youngest daughter in a hazardous situation in which she can lose her own life. She is supposed to be in a safe place with her sister, but the mother has taken her back into a dangerous situation. This is the effect of prejudicial motherhood that led the daughter to be in a hazardous situation.

2.2 The death of Amanda Sternberg

This is the second effect to Amanda's family in this novel.

"You'll see, your daughter will get out of here."

Yes, her daughter would, but not her. She was beyond redemption; she had to cease to exist.

In this quotation, it can be seen that Amanda has foreshadowed her future about the survival between her and her daughter. The protagonist knows that she will not be able to get out of the concentration camp. This is the acceptance and the sacrifice Amanda has made for her daughter. The effects of the decisions she made lead her to this ending. From this can be seen the life instinct influenced by the maternal instinct make the protagonist brave and ready for all the things that are going to happen to the protagonist.

"Now you must promise me something. You're about to start a new life, and must forgive me for having made you suffer so much."

From this quotation, the protagonist realizes that she has made her family suffer during this war because of the prejudicial motherhood she has. The instinct to stay alive together with her daughters by keeping one of them only by her side has led them into this situation. Here, it can be proven that only some of the time, the motherhood side is always right. The motherhood here leads the protagonist to her death instinct. Sigmund Freud (1991) states that when the death instinct is combined with the life instinct, it contributes to maintaining a bearable gap between subject and object, making it easier to carry out the subject's wishes. The

protagonist wishes to save her daughter, so she ignores her safety and chooses to give up her life for her daughter's safety.

D. CONCLUSION

This analysis deals with the concept of life and death instinct and maternal instinct by Sigmund Freud. The prejudicial motherhood contained in this analysis, such as the difficulties in making correct decisions, impulsive decisions, family separation, and the death of Amanda Sternberg. The researcher analyzed the novel to show the prejudicial motherhood a mother experiences when exposed to life-death situations. It exposes how the protagonist tries to keep her daughter safe while her maternal instinct works against her purposes and brings despair into the family.

In undergoing prejudicial motherhood, the main character is unable to control her maternal instinct in making important decisions for her family. Her mind keeps changing from time to time, and she often makes prejudicial decisions for her family.

In conclusion, motherhood appears in the most critical moments when a mother needs to make decisions about her family. A mother's maternal instinct can advantage and disadvantage the family itself when used in some particular situations. Maternal instinct can ruin the original purpose of the life instinct to survive in the world.

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