

EPHEBOPHILIA IN THE MAIN CHARACTER AS DESCRIBED IN LOLITA NOVEL BY NABOKOV

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Abstract

Lolita is a novel written by Nabokov. The author exactly writes about a sexual disorder that has given the influence that is very bad to Humbert as the main character. In the analysis, sexual disorder is called ephebophilia as the sexual orientation of the main character Humbert in the Nabokov's Lolita. Humbert interests with Dolores because he finds. In doing the analysis the researcher applied psychological approach, supported by the theory of ephebophilia. Those are used by the researcher to do textual analysis. Besides, the researcher applied the data that were taken from the dialogues and narrations of Lolita novel as the object of this research. As it is the library research, the researcher involved the data needed from some books, journals, articles from the internet and news paper to provide the issue analyzed. Hence, in conducting this research, descriptive qualitative method was applied to elaborate the data concerning to the problem formulated. After applying those technique and analyzing data, then the researcher draws the conclusion. The analysis is concerning about ephebophilia as the result of the main character, where ephebophilia still has relations with the construction of ephebophilia who has experienced by the main character. The sexual fantasies are always experienced by the main character. The unconscious castration anxiety and sexual attraction which becomes a desire that must be done by the main character.

Key words: Ephebophilia, Main Character, Novel.

INTRODUCTION

Sexual orientation is a person's sexual orientation is defined by the gender to which he or she is sexually attracted (Evayani & Rido, 2019). Someone who is attracted primarily or exclusively to members of the same gender (Chavez, 2000) is characterized as gay or homosexual, though the latter word has largely fallen out of use. Sexual orientation deals with how a person is attracted primarily or exclusively to members of the opposite gender who is characterized as straight or heterosexual (M Yuseano Kardiansyah, 2017). Someone who has strong, viable attraction for people of both genders is characterized as bisexual, homosexual or even the ephebophilia. It is explicitly explained that sexual orientation engage to the sexual attraction of human toward another. sexual attraction is how human receive another creature sexuality side. Each person has different sexual attraction toward opposite sex or same sex. But, mostly, sexual attractions appear when opposite sex has attractive appearance and the ability of opposite gender to arouse sexual desire the doer to do sexual relationship. During the teen years, people often find themselves

having sexual thoughts and attractions. Sexual orientation can appear in many form sexual attraction one of them is epebhophilia.

Ephebophiles (from *ephebos*, meaning –one arrived at puberty in Greek), who are mostly attracted to 14- to 16-year-olds. Ephebophilia as a part of sexual orientation refers to a sexual attraction to prepubescent children (Pustika, n.d.). Sexual attraction to post-pubescent children (Febriantini et al., 2021), teenagers, is called ephebophilia, meaning love of a youth. It means that ephebophilia is an adult man who ha sexually attraction to young girl in puberty as usual 14 until 16 to a girl or to men around 14 until 16 years. Actually ephebophilia only describes preference to people that have sexual attraction in puberty especially in teenager not only the existence from the level sexual attraction. Ephebophilia is an adult man who gets interested in sexual attraction in the age puberty. It is reflected in the main character in *Lolita* novel by Nabokov.

The researcher chooses *Lolita* novel as analysis because this novel explains about ephebophilia that focuses to the story about sexual attraction of men to teenager (Al Falaq & Puspita, 2021). The researcher tries to give further information about what is epebhophilia and the difference toward another sexual orientation that common people familiar with. In this research, the researcher uses psychological approach that order to analyze the sexual orientation of main characters in the novel *Lolita*. Psychological is one of the factors that influence (Saifuddin Dahlan, 2013) sexual orientation of human being. Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behaviour ((Novita et al., 2020), (Novita & Husna, 2020)). It means that psychological is the scientific study of mind and behaviour that explain about human life. The analysis will focus on the main character ((Mertania & Amelia, 2020), (Amelia & Dintasi, 2019)) that experiences the ephebophilia.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Sexual Orientation

The word sex is familiar by common people because the people know about it (Evayani & Rido, 2019). The word of sex is usually related to sexual orientation. Sexual orientation is a persistent pattern of physical and emotional attraction to the members of the same and opposite sex. Everyone has a sexual orientation. Sexual orientation is a combination of emotional, romantic, sexual or affectionate attraction to another person. It means that sexual orientation is the term to describe someone that has attraction in romantic, emotional or sexual attraction and owned by every people in this earth. No one fully

understands exactly what determines a person's sexual orientation, but it is likely explained by a variety of biological and genetic factors.

In other words, the development human sexual orientation is started when human (Adelina & Suprayogi, 2020) is in adolescence (Puspita, 2019) life cycle. It is described that human attraction leads in to their sexual orientation started during teen year. In this life time, people have consciousness about another physical sexuality which appears and awakens the sexual feeling toward another. It is described that in determining human sexual orientation, it takes time even though during the process the doer sexual orientation is able to be changed along the sexual experience development and may arise anxiety ((Damayanti & Listyani, 2020), (Mahfud & Gumantan, 2020)) of other what the doer sexual orientation could be. Whether it is considered as -normal sexual orientation or not but sexual orientation is just a process to get their identity (Mertania & Amelia, 2020). Medical experts and organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Psychological Association (APA) view sexual orientation as part of someone's nature. Being gay is also not considered a mental disorder or abnormality (kidshealth.com). The concept of sexual orientation refers to more than sexual behavior. It includes feelings as well as identity. Some individuals may identify themselves as gay lesbian or bisexual without engaging in any sexual activity ((Mandasari, 2017), (S Suprayogi & Pranoto, 2020), (Suprayogi Suprayogi & Pranoto, 2020)). Some people believe that sexual orientation is innate and fixed; however, sexual orientation develops across a person's lifetime. Individuals maybe become aware at different points in their lives that they are heterosexual, gay, lesbian, or bisexual.

Ephebophilia

An ephebophilia is someone who is sexually attracted to adolescents or to post pubescent persons. It also emphasized by American Psychiatric Association that ephebophilia as followed:

Ephebophilia is the sexual preference for older adolescents. Like pedophilia, hebephilia and ephebophilia refers to adults who have a sexual attraction to children of a certain age or development. The sexual attraction is therefore, age specific.

From the explanation the researcher can derive conclusion that ephebophilia is someone who gets attracted to adolescents when someone enters in pubescent. In other meaning ephebophilia is an adult man that has experience to the second pubesct and gets interested to teenager. Sexual orientation of an epebhophilia often included into bisexual. The difference is when bisexual's sexual attraction is no ages limitation meanwhile, an epebhophilia only attracts to post adolescence or in common term is teenage in the age range 14 to 18 years. It is reflected in the main character in *Lolita* novel by Nabokov. That actually describes how the condition of ephebophilia is.

METHOD

The type of this research is descriptive qualitative research in which the subject and the object of the research are described in words to solve the problem. The data are collected, analyzed and the conclusion is drawn without making generalization. It makes the research more valuable. In doing analysis we need data. Data are the things that are known or admitted through fact and information (Kuswanto et al., 2020). Data source is a place where we can find the dialogue and narration (Puspita & Pranoto, 2021) of the novel ((Fitri & Qodriani, 2016), (Afrianto & Ma'rifah, 2020), (M Yuseano Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020), (Sasalia & Sari, 2020), (M Yuseano Kardiansyah, 2017)) that will be discussed by the researcher. The data source is the novel entitled *Lolita* by Nabokov. Data are narration and dialogue which are related to ephobobhilia that will be discussed by the researcher.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This research is arranged to describe the ephebophila as the sexual orientation of the main character, Humbert found in the Nabokov's *Lolita*. Humbert feels in love with his own stepdaughter, Dolores Haze. Dolores Haze is just 12 years old girl when Humbert meets her. This girl reminds Humbert about his experience with his girl friend, Annabel Leigh, in the past time when he is still 14 years old, in his puberty time. Annabel gets the premature death. Dolores has the same prepubescent beauty as Annabel. It makes Humbert feels in love with the beauty of Dolores and secretly nicknames her as *Lolita*.

Construction of Epebhophilia

The development ((PUSPANINGRUM, 2012) human sexual orientation started when human in adolescence life circle. It means that human attraction that leads into their

sexual orientation started during teen year. In this life time, people have consciousnesses about another physical sexuality that appear and awaken the sexual feeling toward another. In this novel during the childhood (Saputra et al., 2020) until adolescent, Humbert feels in love with a girl named Annabel as seen in the quotation;

I see Annabel in such general terms as: "honey-colored skin," "think arms," "brown bobbed hair," "long lashes," "big bright mouth"); and the other when you instantly evoke, with shuteyes, on the dark inner side of your eyelids, the objective, absolutely optical replica of a beloved face, a little ghosting natural colors (and this is how I see *Lolita*) (Nabokov, 1955: 6)

This quotation is taken when Humbert tells his attraction toward Dolores (*Lolita*). Humbert's hormonal attraction arises when he look physical changes of puberty in Annabel body and leads to an awakening of sexual feelings. This is common to wonder and sometimes worry about new sexual feelings. Humbert hormonal attraction becomes the prosecutor part of sexual orientation building of him. It involves a greater understanding of Humbert sexual feelings and how he is attracted to.

Epebophilia of Sexual Fantasies

Epebophilies are individuals suffering from one or more of these epebophilies. It can just engage in fantasy and masturbate, or they can act out their fantasies legally. In this part the researcher tries to seek further understanding about the form of epebophilies. It also seeks the understanding about sexual fantasies in the role model (Muhammad Yuseano Kardiansyah & Qodriani, 2018) of ideal women for them. Another erotic quotation takes place between Humbert, still an adolescent, and Annabel Leigh. She is a girl who is about the same age and who is the model for *Lolita* as seen in the quotation as followed;

She sat a little higher than I, and whenever in her solitary ecstasy she was led to kiss me, her head would bend with a sleepy, soft, drooping movement that was almost woeful, and her bare knees caught and compressed my wrist, and slackened again; and her quivering mouth, distorted by the acridty of some mysterious potion, with a sibilant intake of breath came near to my face. She would try to relieve the pain of love by first roughly rubbing her dry lips against mine; then my darling would draw away with a nervous toss of her hair, and then again come darkly near and let me feed on her open mouth, while with a generosity that was ready to offer her everything, my heart, my throat, my entrails, I gave her to hold in her awkward fist the scepter of my passion. (Nabokov, 1995: 7)

This passage is about the sign of trepidation or self-censorship. It is highly poetic from beginning to end. Because Humbert as the main character tries to imagine how the humbert see and does sex through his victim with his fantasy. This quotation takes place one summer night in a garden on the French Riviera, where humbert gets his desire to have sex with the child. The narrator is not so much trying to describe the erotic games of two youngsters. In this novel, Nabokov tries to reverses the situation, making of Annabel the focal point of the text, though not its reflector. It means that Nabakov describes Annabel as the one who is exposed in written form not in the reflection of her appearance literally.

Unconscious Castration Anxiety

Humbert, Vladimir Nabokov's tragic hero in *Lolita*, embodies a rich and slippery character study in epebhophilia. Humbert seems to be the main actor invested in his recollection and reenactment of his nearly-consummated love affair with Annabel, a pre-adolescent playmate from his teen year. This is caused by the beauty his powerful involvement with these memories, he reflects, left him painfully yearning as an adult to realize his sexual fantasies by finding a new nymphet, his *Lolita*. Unconsciously, Humbert is being castrated metaphorically by his love in Dolores. The castration anxiety refers to being castrated symbolically. In the metaphorical sense, castration anxiety refers to the idea of feeling or being insignificant; there is a need to keep one's self from being dominated; whether it is socially or in a relationship.

Sexual Attraction in Ephebophilia

Ephebophile is a term used to describe people who are aroused by pubescent or early adolescent children (Febriantini et al., 2021). It means that ephebophilia can describe people that have sex with a child. It does not use a special technique ((Sari et al., 2013), (SARI, 2013), (Kuswoyo, 2013)) and does not have without the urge. It will be a paedophilia or ephebophilia. It is also seen in the quotation about Humbert attraction on Dolores when she is in post adolescent.

Now I wish to introduce the following idea. Between the age limits of nine and fourteen there occur maidens who, to certain bewitched travelers, twice or many times older than they, reveal their true nature which is not human, but nymphic (that is, demoniac); and these chosen creatures I propose to designate as "nymphets." (Nabokov, p. 16-17)

It is described that Dolores has a beauty like an angel. Dolores is described as young maiden who turns into nymphic. –Maiden|| here is as the representation of Dolores sexual body in her post adolescent ages. Humbert describes his *Lolita*'s sexual beauty as nymphic creature. Because of the charming of Dolores, Humbert takes a fantasy that she is a little damsel in distress in her 14 years. Her development in sexuality again arises Humbert sexual fantasy on defining the beauty of Dolores.

CONCLUSION

In this research, the researcher concludes that Humbert is an epebhophile that has deep disorder feeling toward Dolores. From those explanations it can be concluded that epebhophilia in the novel of Nabokov into epebhophilia construction, sexual attraction, sexual fantasies, and unconscious castration of Humbert. At the last researcher concludes that Humbert becomes an epebhophilia because he loses role model of women. At first, he loses his mother and it is followed by Annabel. His premature love makes him into an epebhophilian.

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