

Violation of Children's Rights in Dave Pelzer's Trilogy: A Child Called "It", The Lost Boy, and A Man Named Dave

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ABSTRACT

Study on Violation of the Children has focused on abusive and exploitation to the children that violate the children's right convention by Unicef. This study aimed to analyze violation of children's right in dave plezer's trilogy. The researchers used qualitative method and the trilogy by Dave Pelzer: *A Child Called "It", The Lost Boy, and A Man named Dave* as object. The results of this research show that there are 10 kinds of violation, they are inadequate food, inapropriate shelter, limited access to school, limited access to play, leisure and relax, separation from parent, prohibition of cultural activities, abusive, exploitation, disregarding what he think, unprotected weakness. The depiction of children's right violation are creating character and characterization, creating setting of place, creating plot, creating point of view, and creating style. Then, the reason Dave Pelzer write the memoir is to inform to other that he is one of the child that had abused his mother and expect to other parent don't do that to their child. Then, he wants public aware that social workers is not just to earn money. Actually they work to care the children that have problem with their family well.

Keywords: *Violation of Children, Pelzer Trilogy Theory, Violation*

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received

January 13, 2022

Revised

March 18, 2022

Accepted

March 21, 2022

How to cite

Rosari, D., et al.,(2022). Violation of Children's Rights in Dave Pelzer's Trilogy: A Child Called "It", The Lost Boy, and A Man Named Dave. *Attractive : Innovative Education Journal*, 4(1).114-121

Journal Homepage

<https://www.attractivejournal.com/index.php/aj/>

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Published by

CV. Creative Tugu Pena

INTRODUCTION

The last of few years, news in electronic media like television and radio or print media like Journal and periodical, lift on violence of the children . The number of children abused in the world is increasing every year. Child abuse can be defined any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker, which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse, or exploitation, or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm. The effects of child abuse on victims are devastating and life-long, and its effects on our society are pervasive. Child abuse is not just an individual or familial problem, but it is also social problem.

One of the literary form of memoirs which displays the phenomenon of violations of children's rights is a trilogy of Dave Pelzer. The first memoir entitled *A Child Called "It"* (1995), the second is *The Lost Boy* (1997), the last is *A Man Named Dave* (2001). The last of trilogy by Dave Pelzer includes just enough flashback and summary

material that the reader new to his work has a complete grasp of the scope of his mother's abuse and his experiences in foster care.

The present researcher is interesting to analyze Daves memoir, because this is a true story from childhood to adulthood, this memoir told about Dave's struggle for survival in the cruelty of his mother and make the researcher dissolved in the story. Dave endeavor to get better even though he lived in foster homes and has passion in realizing the ideals goals.

There are related previous studies which lead the research on Dave Pelzer's memoir. The present study found twelve previous studies that also analyze Dave Pelzer's memoir. During all this time, the previous studies of Dave Pelzer's memoir that the present study found, it used three approach to analyze their study. They are psychological approach, sociological approach, and biographical approach.

In psychological approach, there are seven previous studies that used psychoanalysis, two previous study used behaviorism, and one previous study used humanistic approach. The seventh of previous study that used psychoanalysis are The first, Susilowati (NgudiWaluyo University, 2013) entitled "*Psychological Structural Analysis to "A Child Called It" by Dave Pelzer*". The result, by analyzing the structural point of the literature along with psychological development approach, it can be seen that David gets from the first to the last stages of the child abuse. The sign of the first stage is that he didn't get food from his mother and the sign of the last stage is physical abuse such as slap in his face, pinch etc. The primary reason of the abuse that David received is disciplinary. The effect of the abuse was that David became scared of his mother. The second is Handayani (Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, 2005) entitled "*A Psychological Analysis on Dave in A Child Called It*". She concluded that there is some changing in Dave's character. Dave had two different psychological developments; there was normal and abnormal development.

The last is in Biographical Approach, there is one previous study that used biography analysis. It was conducted by Zahra (North Sumatera University, 2007) entitled "*Biographical Analysis in Dave Pelzer's A Man Named Dave*". The result of this study is A Man Named Dave shows that the human spirit can triumph over every imaginable set back with sufficient support from adults who care. The caseworkers who buys him a slushie, the teachers and nurse who finally call the police, the foster families that believed in him, these are the people who gave this child hope to go on and live another day. Dave, the man, believes each person is responsible for his or her own behavior. A miscreant, who claims that it is not his fault because he was abused as a child, gets no sympathy from Dave Pelzer. As an older teen and an adult, Dave applies himself, works, hard, lives below his means to save money for a house on the Russian River, and takes responsibility for his own behavior. He reads as much as he can on child abuse and is determined to break the cycle with his own children.

METHOD

This study uses a descriptive qualitative study. Descriptive qualitative is a method that used to describe and analyze the results of the research but it is not to make the wider conclusion. The Formal object of this study is the convention of children's rights by Unicef and the material object is trilogy of *Dave Pelzer: A Child Called "It", The Lost boy, and A Man Named Dave*. The primary data sources are the trilogy of *Dave Pelzer: A Child Called "It", The Lost boy, and A Man Named Dave*. The secondary data sources are from some references and materials are related to the study such as journal and book. The researcher used note taking as the technique of

collecting data. The researcher analyzing the issue of the memoir, try to decide the relationship between violation of children's rights with the memoir. After that, the researcher is making discussion of the research and the last is making conclusion.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The result of this research includes what the indicators of violation of children's rights, depiction of children rights violation, and the reason Dave Pelzer write the memoir.

Table 1
The indicators that the researcher found in Dave Pelzer's Trilogy

1	Inadequate food	insufficient food	no dinner	ACCI: 7
			hunger	ACCI: 38
			no food 3 days	ACCI: 50
			no feed a week	AMND: 9
		Malnourished Food	Leftover Cereal	ACCI: 37
			Leftover breakfast	TLB: 7
		Unhealthy food and drink	eat remnants of the dog	ACCI: 78
			eat rotten meat	ACCI: 39
			eat poop	TLB: 64
			drink ammonia	AMND: 260
2	Inappropriate Shelter	Sleep at basement		ACCI: 42
3	Limited access to school	not allowed to attend school		ACCI: 10
4	Limited access to play, leisure, and relax	limited access to play with friends		ACCI: 72
		Limited access to play with brother		TLB: 31
		No Recreation anymore		ACCI: 26

5	Separation from parent	mother asked Dave to get out from house		TLB: 10
6	Prohibition of cultural activities	prohibition to carve a pumpkin		ACCI: 70
		prohibition to celebrate christmas day		ACCI: 26
7	Abusive	Physical abusive	Hitting face	ACCI: 7
			smacking face	ACCI: 22
			burning arm	ACCI: 28
			Slugging, dragging, pulling	ACCI: 40
			Slapping face	ACCI: 50
			Keeping head into water	ACCI: 67
			grabbing and punching	TLB: 28
			Stabbing	TLB: 65
			gripping Neck	AMND: 16
		Emotional Abuse	forcing to tell a bad boy	ACCI: 22
			call "the boy"	AMND: 9
limited access to look and speak to anybody	ACCI: 31			
8	Exploitation	Economic exploitation		ACCI: 65
9	Disregarding what he think	telling what his mom have said		ACCI: 8
		asking to lie		TLB: 33

		limited to tell anything		TLB: 10
		telling unreal story		ACCI: 33
10	Unprotected Weakness	exposing the weakness		TLB: 131
		inappropriate call		ACCI: 82

The depiction of children's right violation are creating character and characterization, creating setting of place, creating plot, creating point of view, and creating style. Then, the reason Dave Pelzer write the memoir is to inform to other that he is one of the child that had abused his mother and expect to other parent don't do that to their child. Then, he wants public aware that social workers is not just to earn money. Actually, they work to care the children that have problem with their family well.

Other research found that has many wishes in his life such as food, happy family, freedom, and emotion. these are all the grees he really needs most. However David is also living in a world full of rules; no television, no food, no leisure, no freesom, only obedience toward what his mother orders him. The fourth previous study that used psychoanalysis is Lucy (Gunadarma University, 2011) t The result is the causes of alcoholism on Roerva can be divided into severa psychological factors, including a need to relief anxiety, ongoing depression, unresolved problem and low self esteem, and social factor including : social acceptance of alcohol, availability of alcohol, and stressful lifestyle. Fenny (Bina Nusantara University, 2005) in his tittle *The Behavior of Child Abuse Victim in Living with His Foster Parents in The Lost Boy by Dave Pelzer*". The researcher describes about the psychological impacts for the victim of child abuse to adjust in the new circumstances where they will live as reflected in the novel *The Lost Boy*. A main character in *The Lost Boy* is the author himself whom became the victim of child abuse. The sixth previous study was conducted by Drilandoyo (Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, 2014) entitled "*Struggle For Life Reflected in Dave Pelzer's Autobiography A Child Called "It" : One Child'S Courage to Survive (1999): An Individual Psychological Approach*". The result of his study, based on the structural analysis it can be found that in the novel, Dave delivers message that struggle for life is important in everyone's life, because it is absolutely required to reach a good life and based on individual psychological approach, the most influential aspect in the struggle for life is being adaptable person. The last previous study that used psychoanalysis is Rumengan (Sanata Dharma University, 2010) entitled "*A Study on Premature Adulthood of the Main Character in Dave Pelzer's A Child Called 'It'*". the result of her study is show that Dave's mother bad and mean treatments to him have turned him into a child who has premature adulthood. This is because Dave must be responsible for all 'new tasks' that are not suited for a child at his age.

Two previous studies that used behaviorism, they are Tambunan (North Sumatera Unversity, 2007), entitled *The Analysis of Child Abuse in Dave Pelzer's A Child Called "It" : One Child Courage to Survive*. The researcher analyzed kind of treatments of psychological, neglect, education, and the relation between alcohol with abuse the children and David (North Sumatera Unversity, 2010), entitled *An Analysis of Moral Values Found in Major Character of A Man Named Dave Novel*. The researcher analyze

this novel to know the moral values of mayor character in A Man Named Dave and to know the mayor character's life based on their moral. One previous study used humanistic approach was conducted by Kholifah (Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, 2011) entitled "*A Child Struggle to Survive in A Child Called It Novel by Dave Pelzer (1995): A Humanistic Psychology*". The result is the humanistic psychological analysis shows that people will do everything to achieve their goal. Dave pelzer as the main character describes and shows his struggle to fulfill the needs which are evaluated in Humanistic psychological approach.

In sociological approach, the present study found one previous study that used structural analysis. It was conducted by Sumiati (UMS, 2011) the title is *Child abuse in dave pelzer's a Child Called It: A Sociological Approach* and the result based on the structural analysis, it is evident that in this memoir A Child Called It, Dave Pelzer conveys a moral message that some children are not brought up properly because of unstable parents. They become the victim of abusive parents. In order to deliver the message. Dave Pelzer uses his own life to be the sample of such victim. Secondly, based on the sociological analysis it is clear that in this memoir Dave Pelzer not only portrays the social phenomena in which a child becomes the victim of abusive parents, but also the society that ignores the right of the children to be brought up properly.

The depiction of children's right violation are creating character and characterization, creating setting of place, creating plot, creating point of view, and creating style. In character and characterization, there are a cruel mother, passive and weak father, a starving and thief child (Dave), the hater brothers, lovely brother, wise official that consists of mr. Hansen as principal, miss Moss as math teacher, the nurse, miss Woods as English teacher, Mr. Ziegler is the Dave's teacher when he was fifth grade, wicked friend, they are Aggie and Clifford, and helpfull foster parents, they are Aunt Marry (March &, 1973), Catanzee (August 10, 1973), Turnonboughts (March 2, 1975), Michael and Joanne (March 4, 1975), Vera and Jodi Jones (Sepember 22, 1976), John and Linda Walsh (March 1, 1977). In creating on setting of place, the story of Dave Pelzer's trilogy is placed in United States of America, it take place in Dave's own home where his mother abused him. Another place is at school where he could feel safe and free from abuse. In creating plot, there are sad events like starving, inappropriate shelter and horrifying events like abusive, exploitation, and improper food and drink. In creating point of view, this memoir uses first person past tense. This means that the story of memoir is told through the experience of one person that telling about his journey of life. In creating style, there are diction such his mother called Dave "It", the narrator uses "The Lost Boy" as his second book, the word "prisoner of war" to describe the abusive. The figurative language is like simile, metaphor, ironi, imagery, and symbol.

The reason Dave Pelzer write the memoir is to inform to other that he is one of the child that had abused his mother and expect to other parent don't do that to their child. Then, he wants public aware that social workers is not just to earn money. Actually they work to care the children that have problem with their family well.

CONCLUSION

There are 10 kinds of violation, the first is inadequate food that consists of insufficient food, malnourished food, and unhealthy food. The second is inappropriate shelter like sleep at basement. The third is limited access to school, for example, Dave did not allowed to school before finish his homework. Fourth is limited access to play, leisure and relax, the example are Dave can't play with his friend and his brother, no

recreation anymore. Fifth is separation from parent, Dave's mother asked him to get out from house when she fight with Dave's father. Sixth is prohibition of cultural activities, Dave is prohibite to carve a pumpkin when halloween and can't celebrate the Christmasts Day. Seventh is abusive, Dave is often get slapping, punching, grabbing, hitting, kicking even burning and drink the mixture of ammonia and chlorox. Eighth is exploitation, the exploitation in this memoir is economical exploitation. Dave's mother asked Dave to cutt the grass at the neighbour field, then he have to collect the money to be given to his mother. Ninth is disregarding what he think, it is like asking to lie, limited to tell anything, and tell unreal story. The last of indicator that found is unprotected weakness. Here, the mother always exposing his child weakness and call his child with inappropriate call, like "it", "bad boy", "the boy".

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