



The study of masculinity crisis reflected in the main character in Anna Todd's 'After'

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Abstract. This study aimed to identify the masculinity crisis that reflected in the main character in Anna Todd's 'After'. The novel entitled 'After' is famous for its web-released fanfiction web novel on Wattpad's platform, then it was published and filmed after. This study uses Connell's theory on masculinity (Connell, 2005) to find the related data to the theory itself. Furthermore, this analysis focuses on the used theory of masculinity by detailing in masculinity crisis inside Hardin's inferiority in the novel After by Anna Todd. In addition, the previous studies connected the effect of failing two stages in Psychosocial Development on Hardin's personality (Afifah, 2021).

Keywords: Masculinity Crisis, After, Anna Todd, Connell

INTRODUCTION

Anna Renee Todd is an American author and screenwriter, who is best known for her After series (Anna Todd, 2019). She started publishing on the social storytelling platform Wattpad. The print edition of the series was published in 2014 by Gallery Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, and has been translated into several languages. She is known from her works of After. This novel basically talks about a life of an innocent girl college life, Theresa Young on a rough ups and downs that she faced upon Hardin Scott. Masculinity is something that evolves stereotypically in men, and it made them dominate women, to show their power to attract women. Masculinity involves men's vulnerability inside their feelings when it is about the pride, dignity, and leadership that man depicts in life. Masculinity is something that evolves stereotypically in men. Men dominate women in case of to show their power to attract (Connell, 2005). Besides, masculinity involves men's vulnerability inside their feelings about the pride, dignity, and leadership that man depicts in life. Masculine is a form of masculine construction towards men. Men are not born naturally with masculine traits because their masculinity is bound to their culture, and somehow masculinity is something that is shaped by the culture. Tessa Young, an innocent, smart girl starts her new year as a student at WCU, Washington Central University. Tessa leaves her mother and her boyfriend in her old town and lives in new dorm. At the WCU, Tessa shares a room with Steph who has the opposite personality to her. Steph likes parties, wears sexy clothes, dyes her hair, and has tattoos. Tessa's mother who had met Steph told Tessa to stay away from a girl like Steph. Her mother dislikes

Steph from the moment when she saw her in Tessa's dorm. Who then finally meets Steph's friend, Hardin Scott accidentally at a time that makes Tessa uncomfortable. Tessa feels that danger will come to her if she keeps meeting Hardin, but what can be done when fate has united her with Hardin. This analysis focuses on the used theory of masculinity by detailing in masculinity crisis inside Hardin's inferiority in the novel *After* by Anna Todd. Hardin's inferiority stemmed from his childhood trauma which continued into Hardin's life when he grew up. He ends up in his college life with friends who are bad influences, but he can't deny that he also enjoys times when he is free to date anyone. But when Tessa rejects him, Hardin feels that his pride as a man who has rarely been rejected in his life has been stabbed. With friends who understand his condition, they make a bet for Hardin that if he can sleep with Tessa, he will get something from his friends. Tessa is an innocent and pure girl who doesn't even know Hardin's tactics to get things that Tessa doesn't even know will hurt her one day. Long story short, Tessa rejects Hardin, now that Hardin tries to get her attention, but then ends up him getting annoyed and felt inferior on not getting Tessa as his date. Due from his inferiority, Hardin friends sets up a bet to made Hardin slept with Tessa to prove his ability to get Tessa's heart sincerely.

The researcher hopes that the study provides useful information on the description of hegemony masculinity from Hardin's inferiority by providing insight into how character perceptions and experiences are expressed through text. Also, hope the study will prove to be a useful resource for those interested, especially those studying masculinity theory.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The researcher limited the subject of this research only to *After* as the data source. The researcher focused on the inferiority and masculinity crisis aspects as they are depicted in Anna Todd's novel. Masculinity crisis theoretically implies a coherent system of some kind, which is destroyed or restored by the effect of the crisis. As the argument has shown, masculinity is not a system in that sense. Masculinity is one of the gender roles consistently associated with men and continually reproduced by society. As such, masculinity is taken for granted as an inherent characteristic of men (Nurhadi, 2018). Connell explain (in Rahayu *et al.*, 2022) masculinity is not solely determined by male biology; instead, it is frequently associated with male bodies. Consequently, it is possible to refer to women who embody masculinity and men who exhibit femininity, as well as encounter gender ambiguities and paradoxes. Masculinity cannot logically speak of the crisis of a structure; rather it might talk about its disturbance or its transformation, but logically speak of the crisis of a gender order as a whole, and its dispositions towards the faced crisis (Connell, 2005). From previous research conducted by (Afifah, 2021) discusses how the portrayal will be the effect of failing two stages in Psychosocial Development on Hardin's personality. Those two stages are industrialist versus inferiority and identity cohesion versus role confusion. Whilst the other research conducted by (Boffi, 2022) about hegemonic masculinity on masculinity performed by transgender men: qualitative evidence and meta synthesis, that shows a results on complementary experiences of masculinity: regarding physical appearance and body modification; and practices that defy the standards of hegemonic masculinity. Hegemonic masculinity is the most dominant and socially valued form of masculinity available to men.

METHOD

This analysis under the qualitative descriptive method relates to the quality of the results and discussion data. The data is from all the text proof inside the novel. This analysis also

describes a description of masculinity crisis. The data of this study taken from primary and secondary sources; the primary data is the text of the novel entitled “After” written by Anne Todd. Then, the secondary data of this study are taken from the books, journal articles, and websites to validate the data. The researcher collected the data by reading the full text of the prose from Wattpad app, until it published by the form of the book print. After reading the prose text, the researcher reads the text closely to get more deeply understanding of the story. Then, the researcher creates a table that was useful to facilitate the interpretation of the text. Last is the researcher identified elements such as the narrations and the dialogues following the aspects of the theory. The first is that the researcher read the story more than once to understand the meaning of this story. Then, the researcher interprets all the data that has been converted into table form. After that, the researcher analyzes more deeply the data related to the aspects examined in this study.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Inferiority

1. Childhood Trauma of the main character

The story begins with the childhood trauma experienced by Hardin without the presence of a good father figure in his life. Hardin was forced to grow up with his father who had remarried with another woman, leaving his birth mother alone in London. From that past, Hardin grew up as a figure who was known as a rogue, even he and his friends also did bad things at many parties by changing women every night to date. No doubt, when Hardin met Tessa, Hardin thought that Tessa was an ordinary innocent girl who he could fool right away. After several meetings with Tessa, Hardin feels that Tessa is a good girl, but behind their relationship, there is a bet that Hardin must win for Hardin's personal benefit.

Table 1. The analysis of the contained context

<p><i>“Hardin, truth or dare?” Molly asks. He answers “dare,” of course. “I dare you to kiss Tessa,” she says and gives him a fake smile.</i></p> <p><i>Hardin’s eyes go wide, and though the alcohol is making everything more exciting, I really just want to run away from him. “No, I have a boyfriend,” I say, making everyone laugh at me for the hundredth time tonight. Why am I even hanging around these people who keep laughing at me? “So? It’s just a dare. Just do it,” Molly says, pressuring me. “No, I’m not kissing anyone,” I snap and stand up. Without looking at me, Hardin just takes a drink from his cup. I hope he’s offended. Actually, I don’t care if he is. I’m through interacting with him like this. He hates me and is just too rude. (Chapter 16)</i></p>	<p>From the challenge, Hardin seems to be upset. Hardin who is known as a man who is almost never rejected by any woman that he wants to date anytime. But Tessa was different. She rejected Hardin forthrightly in front of his friends at the frat house party that was held to welcome the new WCU (Washington Central University) students. From that rejection came a bet that made Tessa trapped in a situation that she didn't expect before. Long story short, after the party, Tessa continuing to meet Hardin unnoticedly at some moment at the campus. She barely notices that maybe Hardin had something to do with her.</p>
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B. Masculinity

1. Masculinity crisis through the act of the main character

The researcher found the aspect of the masculinity crisis from what Hardin been done in the novel. The main character denied that he was not using Tessa for his own business, but then it turned to hurt her the most. This inferiority of Hardin is one of the explanations on why the masculinity crisis that the main character feel in the novel is clearly described. This kind of crisis tendencies may initiate attempts to restore dominant masculinity (Connell, 2005), but then turns to nothing when Hardin cannot attempt to approach Tessa who never wants to be controlled by men. This phenomenon happened because Hardin wants to show his power, and in this case, men want to show his patriarchy.

Table 2. The analysis of the contained context

<p><i>"You said you were . . . and that gave someone an idea—" "Gave who the idea?" Molly interrupts. "Me . . . gave me the idea," he admits. His eyes never leave mine. Which doesn't make this any easier. "That . . . it could be fun to make . . . to make a bet." His head falls, and tears pour from my eyes. (Chapter 89)</i></p>	<p>From the bet that Hardin had made, it bring such a big conclusion that relationship that been made with Tessa is fake. All for a bet, and Hardin feel too pathetic to admit that he's just a coward that feel inferior at a moment when Tessa had rejected him first, turns to a big mess by involving a bet upon his friends to humiliate Tessa. This also indicates an inferior as a man that been humiliated in front of his friends, then getting rejected from a girl who barely he doesn't know who she really is. By took a revenge upon Tessa over a silly-virginity bet made him such a great jerk who felt that he is the one, he is superior, and he can control a girl who doesn't deserve the cruelty of what he and his friends did.</p>
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CONCLUSION

From the result of the analysis, it is accurate based on some of the evidence that has been analysed regarding Hardin's character from Tessa's POV. To conclude, what Hardin had done to take a revenge as what Tessa's been done before is such a childish and unmanly thing that a man would do to win over a silly bet. If he could try to approach her in a way more naturally, he won't ever cross a mind on bad things that he would done to Tessa afterwards. From this novel also had a great lesson on women on not trusting a man over a false promises and sweet mouth of man. Even the inferiority had overwhelmed a person, don't ever think on doing bad things that could harm a feeling of a pure heart. Otherwise, try to see the good things rather than stuck in a circle that gives a bad influence.

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