

An Analysis of Juvenile Delinquency in Lauren Oliver's Vanishing Girls Novel

Annisa Oktriulinah Pohan
Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta
Yogyakarta, Indonesia
E-mail: annisaamriani.2021@student.uny.ac.id

Abstract

This thesis is titled "An Analysis of Juvenile Delinquency in Lauren Oliver's Vanishing Girls Novel". This thesis analyzed how the delinquency in the main character. The purpose of this thesis is to know and understand how it happened, to look for both types and causes of delinquency described in the novel. The main characters are Dara, they are teenagers who commit naughty acts in this novel, the cause of their mischief is one of them is broken home and lacking affection from their parents. Drunk behavior is often done by the main character. Overall, men are still almost twice as likely to get drunk as women, which makes it interesting to look more deeply. The theory used to analyze is the Theory according to Jensen and Turner and Helms the research method by which the author collects data from novels and from several sources of articles, books, and journals related with this thesis. The results of this thesis are revealing the truth that broken home and lack of love from parents can cause delinquency on the main character.

Keywords: Juvenile delinquency, kinds, causes.

1. INTRODUCTION

A juvenile is a person who is under the age of 18. The age limit below which it should not be permitted to deprive a child of his or her liberty should be determined by law. A juvenile can be defined as a child who has not attained a certain age at which he, like an adult person under the law of the land, can be held liable for his criminal acts. Delinquency is a kind of abnormality. When an individual deviates from the course of normal social life, his behaviour is called "delinquency". When a juvenile, below an age specified under a statute exhibits behaviour which may prove to be dangerous to society and/or to him he may be called a 'Juvenile delinquent'. Each state has its own precise definition of the age range covered by the word 'juvenile'.

John M Echols and Hassan Shadily states that juvenile delinquency as crime / delinquency of children / young people / young people. The Judiciary in America formulates the juvenile delinquent as follows: "Juvenile delinquency in most jurisdiction is technically speaking a child or young person (in most states under 16, 17, 18; in two states under 21) who has committed an offense for which he may referred to juvenile court authorities."

The term adolescent from the Latin adolescent, which means children, young people, characteristics in youth, and characteristics in the teenage period, while arrears come from the Latin "delinquere" which means neglected, in fact, which is then asked its purpose to be evil, naughty, anti-social, criminal, rule breakers, noisy makers, troublemakers, evil and others. Juvenile delinquency or juvenile delinquency is a crime or delinquency of young children, is a symptom of illness (pathological) in the social in children and adolescents caused by a form of social neglect, so that they can work deviant ways.

According to Bartollas' (2003) Delinquency is typically defined as an act committed by a minor that violates the penal code of the government with authority over the area in which the act occurs. Conger (1976) & Dusek (1977) defines juvenile delinquency as delinquency committed by someone under the age of 16 and 18 who performs behavior that can be punished or punished. Young or adult, may lead to a wrong path to improve their financial conditions. Teens become juvenile delinquents due to lack of finances. When they experience poor economic conditions, they start engaging in the wrong activities. They may start selling drugs or steal things to improve their economic conditions.

Vanishing Girls (published in March 10, 2015,) is American author Lauren Oliver's, she is numerous young adult novels, she was born Laura Suzanne Schechter; November 8, 1982, she likes to write novels with themes about young adult, like Panic novel, the Delirium trilogy: Delirium, Pandemonium, and Requiem, and Before I Fall, which became a major motion picture in 2017. Her novels have been translated into more than thirty languages internationally. Oliver is a 2012 E.B. White Read-Aloud Award nominee for her middle-grade novel Liesl & Po, as well as author of the middle-grade fantasy novel The Spindlers.

This novel tells about Dara as the main character convicted of Juvenile delinquency, especially Dara, she often change boyfriends, her life has changed since the divorce, she became a wild, Dara was 17 years old who was taken from a broken family, her parents separated since she was 16 years old, she has changed since father and mother was divorced, Dara has someone who is inversely proportional, she is beautiful girl and popular teenager in her school, since her parents' divorce, Dara grew up to be a teenage girl who likes to drinking alcohol, consuming drugs and likes go to the club at night and that's where she drinks with her friends, she also often comes home late at night because she feel not getting attention from their parents and no one forbids her from do that.

The impact of delinquency carried out by Dara, she became a naughty teenager, by changing boyfriend, Dara feels doesn't get love from her parents, and feels different from her siblings because she felt her sister wasn't delinquent like her. And then Dara looking for affection from her senior man in school, Dara caught up in bad relations, Ranging from drunk to the use of illegal drugs. While Nick is a good girl, actually she is different from her younger sister, but since Dara died she became a naughty teenager who likes to get drunk, using drug like her younger sister behaves.

2. METHODS

In the analysis of juvenile delinquency in the novel *Vanishing Girls* by Lauren Oliver, an elaboration of research design should be arranged to support the statement that⁷ has written in this thesis. Based on that reason, the simplification of method is urgently needed. The method that is coherently available in analyzing certain data from the novel to support this analysis is qualitative descriptive method. By using this method the researcher describes and analyzed certain data and give interpretation about it based on related books concerning to the subject matter. The data is not the whole text but certain quotation and paragraph from the novel. The interpretation based on qualitative descriptive method towards this quotation, sentence and paragraph should be coherent with term promiscuity which is the focus of this thesis and should be able to support the writer of this thesis in summarizing conclusion in the last chapter.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

After analyzing the data found in the novel *Vanishing Girls*, the writer found that there were some mischief done to the main character in the novel, namely social delinquency that does not cause casualties on the side of others it is drug use and drinking alcohol, and delinquency that is against status, it is running away from home and school, the writer also found two causes of juvenile delinquency in this novel namely broken home and Lack of Attention and Affection from Parents.

The writer can conclude that the misbehavior carried out by the main character is drunkenness which is her habit, the main character in this novel often uses drugs, the main character in this novel also often goes to senior parties and clubs even though her age is not enough to get into it, and that's where she got drunk with his friends.

A broken family will have many negative effects on children, especially teenagers. Family factors that may have an influence on violations include: Parental level of supervision, the way parents discipline children, especially harsh punishment, conflict or separation of parents, parents or siblings, parent abuse or neglect, and the quality of parent-relationships child. The lack of affection given by her parents makes Dara's figure grow as a girl who commits juvenile delinquency.

3.1. Kinds of Juvenile Delinquency

In this chapter, here to figure out some kinds of juvenile delinquency related to her character in the story. Jensen 1985 (Sarwono, 2006) divides juvenile delinquency into four forms:

- a. Delinquency that causes physical casualties to others: fighting, rape, robbery, murder, and others.
- b. Delinquency that causes material casualties: vandalism, theft, pickpocketing, extortion, and others.
- c. Social delinquency that does not cause casualties on the side of others: prostitution, drug abuse, freesex.
- d. Delinquency that is against status, for example, denying the status of a child as a student by ditching, running away from home, refuting an order.

1. Social delinquency that does not cause casualties on the side of others Drinking alcohol

While teen use of alcohol has largely been trending down since the 1980s, it's still the most abused substance among teenagers. Nearly 20 percent of 10th-graders and one-third of 12th-graders admit to having consumed alcohol within the past month, according to 2017 data from Monitoring the Future. Ten percent of sophomores and 17 percent of seniors surveyed said they've engaged in binge drinking, which is defined as having five or more drinks in a row at least once during the previous two weeks.

“Dara grabs a bottle of Southern Comfort and splashes three inches into a plastic cup, topping it off with coca-cola” (Vanishing Girls, Lauren Oliver: 12)

In the quote above Dara and her friends are attending a junior student party, this girl is already accustomed to getting drunk, she spent a lot of bottles on the night of the party. Consuming alcoholic drinks is not a crime if consumed in the correct amount. But it can be a matter that concerns crime both in adolescence and in adulthood if consumed in excessive amounts. Need to instill the danger of consuming alcohol in adolescents so that adolescents do not consume alcohol.

2. Delinquency that is against status

Running away from home is often a multilevel process. At first teens are rarely at home and more on the road or with friends. Parents usually warn but they don't understand why they should be at home and why parents should care about them.

“I guess that's the really nice thing about disappearing: the part where people look for you and beg you to come home” (Vanishing Girls, Lauren Oliver: 173)

As we can see in the quote above actually Dara wants to go away from home, because she felt no one love her, Dara is also jealous of her siblings because she feels treated differently from her sister namely Nick, running away from home one of the types of delinquency done by Dara.

3.2. Causes of Juvenile Delinquency

The causes of Juvenile Delinquency according to Turner and Helms (1987), among others:

1. Broken Home

Broken Home is a reflection of disharmony between individuals (husband and wife or parents of children) in household institutions. Husband relations are not in line with or are characterized by quarrels, or continuous conflict. During a fight, children will see, observe, and understand the lack of peace and order between their parents. As a result they choose to seek affection and attention from other parties.

A broken family, as the term indicates, is one in which family ties have been destroyed. A family is not constituted by a number of people living together but their mutual intimate relationships. Absence of this intimacy results in the breaking up of a family, and it is in broken families that juvenile delinquents develop.

“Mom and dad are on the shit list week, too. dad because he's acting all serious and somber about the divorce, when inside you know he's just turning backflips and cartwheels” (Vanishing Girls, Lauren Oliver: 21)

Based on the Quotation Broken home is one of the causes of delinquency committed by the main character in this novel, Dara writes her frustration in her diary, Dara actually does not want her family to separate, indeed there is no child who wants her father and mother to divorce, and when her parents choose to divorce, at that moment her father and mother were included in the category of people she hated.

2. Lack of Attention and Affection from Parents

A child's life needs are not only material, but more than that. He also needs psychological needs for the growth and development of his personality. Entering this era of industrialization, many modern married families work outside the home only to pursue sufficient material needs, the longer the tendency of duties and responsibilities as parents is left to the maid.

3. Low Socio-Economic Status of Parents

Low Socio-Economic Status of Parents. Poor economic life means that all family needs cannot be fulfilled properly, including the educational, health and recreational needs of children.

4. Incorrect Application of Family Conditions

Improper Application of Family Conditions. Some parents think that the application of discipline to children means that it must be done in a strict, uncompromising manner and do not know compassion for children. When children often get abusive and harsh treatment from parents, they tend to take negative actions, as an escape or protest against their parents.

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b. Lack of Attention and Affection from Parents

Attention and affection are fundamental for children. The home environment other than as a shelter, should double as a place to get the necessities of life, socializing and a place to get a sense of security, self-actualizing and as a vehicle for raising children to adulthood in their psychological development.

"He didn't even bother to get out of the car to hug me, instead I wanted to be hugged - just lowering the window and waving, as if I were a passenger on a ship that was setting sail" (Vanishing Girls, Lauren Oliver:33)

Based on the quotation above Dara really wants to be cared for by her parents, she feels that no one loves her and no one cares about her. Not a few parents who feel that they are sufficient to meet the child's needs are limited to material. This is considered to have a negative impact on children. Children feel lack of attention and affection so look for identity elsewhere. "This condition is very easily incorporated into collections or entered into associations that lead to things that are not good.

4. CONCLUSION

There are four kinds of juvenile delinquency which is Delinquency that causes physical casualties to others: fighting, rape, robbery, murder, and others. Delinquency that causes material casualties: vandalism, theft, pickpocketing, extortion, and others. Social delinquency that does not cause casualties on the side of others: prostitution, drug abuse, free sex. Delinquency that is against status, for example, denying the status of a child as a student by ditching, running away from home, refuting an order. There are four causes of juvenile delinquency which is causes broken home, Lack of Attention and Affection from Parents, Low Socio-Economic Status of Parents. Incorrect Application of Family Conditions.

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