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**CRITIQUE OF A WOMAN FACING REALITY OR DEAL CONDITION AS  
REFLECTED IN DANIELLE STEEL'S NOVEL "DADDY"**

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**Abstract**

*This study is about a woman who is influenced by women's liberal movement which is reflected by the main character who is represented in the novel "Daddy". The objectives of this study are to find out what is the view of being educated described in the novel and the changing role of women in society. This research is descriptive qualitative. The main source of this study is the Danielle Steel's novel Daddy. The data were taken in the form of phrases, sentences, paragraphs, and dialogues from the novel. The data were collected by doing reading, identifying, classifying, selecting, analyzing, and reporting them. The data were analyzed using structuralism theory. Theory of structuralism was used for analyzing the character of Sarah Watson as the main role. From the data analysis, I may conclude that 1) Daddy novel reflected the life of women in around 1960s to 1980s. It is the time when women get the opportunity in getting higher education after World War II and women movements. And as being educated, women could get a job and be equal with men. 2) Daddy novel is a simple reflection of the influence of women movement. By the characters, Steel describes the women issue in that time clearly. The women issue as the main issue in women movement such as freedom of choice to vote, apply for employment, use of hotels, restaurants, getting higher education and all other public places. Those issues are the main things which women movement struggle for and it also led the changing of women role in society in that time.*

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## INTRODUCTION

American women won the right to vote in 1920, broader economic and social change has been a longer time coming, and the pace of progress often has been uneven. In the United States during the 1960s, there began a period of substantial social change; in women's issues, the result was a phenomenon known as the women's movement. Influenced by the success of the civil rights movement for racial equality and other progressive currents sweeping the nation during the 1960s and 1970s, a wide array of organizations and lobbying groups urged full equality for American women as well. The call was not only for a fundamental revision of American institutions, customs and values, but also for a revolution in consciousness — in the minds of women as well as men — and especially in the way women thought about themselves. (Harrison, 1995:3)

Gender equality was the climate of "tumultuous social change" of the 1960s and the 1970s that swept the entire United States, causing Americans to question the state of equality in the nation (National Association for Women's Deans 26). The civil rights movement, similar in its goal of access for African-Americans, was taking place during this same time period, adding fuel to the fire of activists for social change. Both the civil rights movement and the women's movement were characterized by a passionate desire to be included in society, whether it is through access to education or access to legal voting. Particularly on the issue of higher education, Elizabeth Tidball wrote that the beginning of a societal sea change was underway, continuing with the onset of student unrest at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1964 and spreading rapidly throughout institutions of higher education. Student demands for change in virtually everything not only brought about a new era of redefinition but led also to the dissolution of many small, private, liberal arts colleges with limited resources.

Due to the incredible zeal with which the activists of both movements demanded social change. The ultimate outcome of the movements failed to be considered. But then the opportunity of women in getting education comes in 1960s and 1970s when the civil right claimed for the gender equality.

Beside, all equalities cause another problem for women whose nature become housewives with all household duties no matter how high the education that women have or how busy with their career they should have spare time for the family. In fact it is very difficult to do. So women faced dilemma when they face education, career or family. (Jacobs, 2006:3)

The setting of the novel is 1960s to 1980s when women education as the main problem, so in this study, I would like to analyze Critique of a Woman Facing Reality or Deal Condition as Reflected in the novel of "The Daddy" by Danielle Steel to understand more about the view of educated women which influence the way of thinking of American women.

The objectives of this study are:

1. To describe the thought of being educated woman in Danielle Steel's novel *Daddy*.
2. To describe how Sarah criticize the role of housewife with high expectation as reflected in Danielle Steel's novel *Daddy*.

The result of this research hopefully able to bring advantages in theoretically and practically forms. First, theoretically matters this research helps to know and understand very clearly about the importance of liberal education and it influence through women's thought. Then in practical matter, by this study women could be wiser in using their time and organize their role between family and workforce.

## DISCUSSION

### 4.3 The Change of Woman Role in Society

In the United States during the 1960s, there began a period of substantial social change in women's issues, the result was a

phenomenon known as the women's movement. The "second-wave" began in the early 1960's and ran through the late 1980's. In this wave, women strived to reach a further sense of equality with men and to allow women to have a greater control over their body and the protection from physical abuse. (Sink, 2008)

Since the middle of the century, women around the world have been seeking greater independence and recognition. No longer content with their traditional roles as housewives and mothers, women have joined together to create the so-called "women's liberation movement". While the forces behind this international movement vary from culture to culture and from individual to individual, the basic causes in the United States can be traced to three events which as cited on <http://communicativegrammar4.blogspot.com/2011/03/womens-liberation-movement-causes-and.html> as following;

The first cause of the liberation of women was the development of effective birth-control methods, freeing women from the endless cycle of childbearing and rearing. As a result of having a choice as to if and when to bear children, women acquired the freedom and the time to pursue interests outside the home. Because of the development of birth control, women could delay having children or avoid having them altogether; consequently, women had the opportunity to acquire an education and/or pursue a career.

The second event was the development mechanized labor-saving devices for the home, resulting in more leisure time and freedom for women. For example, fifty years ago, a housewife spent an average of twelve to fifteen hours per day doing housework. Due to the invention of machines such as vacuum cleaners and dishwashers, a housewife can now take care of her daily housework in about five hours.

The third event that, at least in the United States, gave impetus to the liberation

of women was World War II. During the war, most men were serving in the military. Consequently, women had to fill the vacancies in the labor force. Women by the thousands went to work in factories and even took over businesses for their absent husbands. This was a great change for the majority of American women, for they discovered that they could weld airplanes and manage a business as well as change diapers and bake cookies.

One of the biggest effects of the greater independence of women is being felt in the home. Because so many women are working, men are learning to share the household tasks of cooking, cleaning and even caring for children. In some families, husbands now stay at home while the wife earns the family in-come. It should be pointed out; however, that this is the exception, not the rule. In most families in the U. S., the husband still earns most of the money, and the wife still does most of the housework.

The effects of women's liberation are also being felt on the job. More and more women are working, and they are demanding equal salaries and equally responsible positions. Many businesses encourage women to advance to management level, and every year, the nation's schools produce more women doctors, lawyers and accountants.

These three events planted the seeds of a great change in society, and the effects of this change are being felt at all levels: in the family, in business, and in government. This social change is reflected in Daddy with the character Sarah. The further analysis will be shown as follows:

#### **4.3.1 The Change of Woman Thought**

Changing attitudes toward the role of women in American society created new opportunities, as well as new challenges, for women of all walks of life. Beecher as the pioneer of women's educator and others believed women needed a superior education in order to raise their children to be good citizens, to teach Cristian values, and to train

other women to become teachers. Catherine wrote extensively on the subject of education for girls and women, stressing intellectual stimulation, moral education, and physical health.

But, once women began receiving higher education, there was no going back. Education changed women's role in society dramatically. Occupations were limited but women began to seep into the male-dominated world. After experiencing higher learning, aspirations changed and gradually society's expectations had to change as well. Education bred confidence and empowerment. With empowerment came the realization that women should not be considered lesser citizens than men and therefore should have the same rights enjoyed by men. Educated women were more apt to challenge men's role as the dominant figure and the flawed rationale for the denial of suffrage. Before this time, women were uneducated (Emily S. Pegues, 2000:7)

When women take higher education, have mastered a particular field, and get a good job, some of them claim that they could support themselves even without having married nor child and to be free. They run away from the responsibility which had stated that women have to get married when they getting grow up then having children. But it does not happen for those who think to be out of context. And that thing also happen to Sarah when Oliver asked her to get married, as the following citation:

He knew she was good, too, but he didn't see why she couldn't be "creative " and married. "... Marriage is for women who are looking for someone to support them. I want to take care of myself, Oliver Watson." And she was capable of it, or she had been then, after a fashion. She had worked as a part-time gallery sitter in SoHo, and a freelance writer. And she'd made money at it. Sometimes. But now, sometimes, she wondered if she would still be able to take care of herself, to support herself, to fill out her own tax forms, and make sure her

health insurance hadn't lapsed. (Datum number 5)

The way of Sarah's thinking is influenced by the women's liberation movement of the 1960s which helped all these changes to come about through its scores of policies and radical ways of thinking (Sawhney:2002). This movement made significant changes for women in regards to basic rights, in the home and in the workplace for the better.

Beside push away the marriage so with having a baby. In her young age, she does not want to have a family yet, as the following citation:

She had worn it practically night and day from the altar till they got home from their honeymoon, but somehow, some way, something had gone wrong and she was pregnant. And she wanted to have an abortion. Oliver was horrified that she would even think of it. But Sarah was even more so at the thought of having children so quickly. "We don't want a family yet . . . I want to get a job again . . . to do something . . ." She'd been thinking of getting a job this time as an editor at a literary magazine, her stories hadn't been selling quite as well, and she had applied to Columbia Graduate School to do some work toward her master's. (Datum number 7)

The citation above shows that Sarah does not ready with the reality in front of her. She as the educated one should not stuck as a mother which means she has to be a housewife who stay at home and taking care the baby. All she want to do is getting a job and build her career. And to avoid her condition she want to do abortion and the similar thing also happen in the second and third pregnancy, as the following citation:

She was expecting another baby. This time there was no anger, no rages, no outrage or fury, there was simply despair, and what seemed to Oliver like hours and hours of crying. She couldn't face it, she couldn't do it again. She couldn't handle another child and Benjamin wasn't even out of diapers, and now would be two of them. "I can't . . . I just can't, Ollie

. . . please . . . don't make me . . . " They argued about abortion again. (Datum number 15)

She was pregnant. She hadn't even told Ollie. She had told herself it was nothing. Some nothing. But this time there was no doubt what she would do. This was 1979. Her children were reasonable age. She was thirty-one years old. And abortion were legal. This time Oliver was not going to talk her out of it. she was not going to have a baby. (Datum number 17)

The citations above describe Sarah's feeling that she does not ready in facing the reality that she has pregnant for three times and because of that she has to give up her dream to get a job and to be a writer. Then to shift off from the condition she plan to do abortion for several times. Sarah's wish to do abortion was one of phenomenon which happened in 1960, female birth control contraceptive pill was introduced to the public with FDA approval. This allowed more young women to control their pregnancy, which led to an increase in feminism, and pursuing careers. And the birth control movement with slogans such as "control over our own bodies" criticised male domination and demanded women's liberation. Connotation that is absent from the family control also advocated for the legalisation of abortion and large scale education campaigns about contraception by governments. In the 1980s birth control and population control organisations co-operated in demanding rights to contraception and abortion, with an increasing emphasis on "choice" (Basu, 2002:5).

After the approval of female birth control contraceptive pill and legalisation of abortion, women especially Sarah have an abortion option, they are not as tied to the home as they have been. They have the ability to work and go out without having to always feel the burden childbearing or childcare until they are ready.

#### **4.3.2 The Change of Women Obligation in Marriage Life**

The obligation of a woman in the old marriage life is taking care the children and the house. the change in women's status in the decades since World War II has been dramatic. The right of a married woman to work outside the home is no longer in question, especially because most families with two parents depend on a second income. In the family life the main function of marriage in most traditional societies is to take care the children. Changing marriage patterns are also the result of improvements in women's education and income, and the failure of women's status to keep pace. The salient characteristic of many traditional marriage systems is that women especially young women have little independence. Two forces are giving women more autonomy especially in education and jobs. In another side education changes women's expectations (http://www.economist.com/node/2152632 9).

As time goes by, education give women more autonomy in their life, not all of education give the good thing but there is also the bad thing especially in women's married life. The traditional concept of married also change little by little, today women do not really do their role in the family but most of them are more concern with their job and higher education. (Payea, 2005:7)

There are two reasons why education's spread reduces women's propensity to marry. First, non-marriage has always been more prevalent among women with more education. Now that there are more women in these higher-education groups, there are fewer marriages. Marriage rates are also lower in cities. Since education is likely to go on improving, and urbanisation to go on rising, more women will join the ranks of graduates or city folk who are least likely to marry (Baum & Payea, 2005:10).

More education leaves the best-educated women with fewer potential partners. Better education also makes possible the other main trend changing

marriage: female employment. All things being equal, having a job increases a woman's autonomy. She has more options, and these options include not having a husband. But it is clear from Western societies that women will not necessarily choose a job over marriage. Rather, they will struggle to balance the conflicting demands of work and family (Rose: [erose@u.washington.edu](mailto:erose@u.washington.edu)).

With higher education, women get better job and have many options to take decision like getting married, but career women could take care of themselves thus they do not need anyone to support them. The condition makes them think that married and having husband is not necessary as long as they could support their own life and prefer to be free.

When older son would go to college soon, Sarah give up her dreams because of that she feel that she does not has any passion in her life although her family life seems perfect as the following citations:

. . . She smiled sadly to herself as Agnes let the dog out and he bounded through the snow, barking, and leaping. They were all so happy. All of them. Even Agnes. But why did she feel so empty? what was gone? What had she lost? What she never had? What did she want now? Something. Everything. She wanted all of it. Fame. Success. Fulfillment. Big stuff. And she knew she would never have it. (Datum number 23)

The quotation above describes Sarah's feeling about her life that she still want many things that she ever dream before although she know that it would never happen due to her children and husband and her perfect life.

She couldn't go back to Harvard now. She couldn't possibly leave them, she silently wondered why she had even applied. It was ridiculous, a pipe dream, Ollie would laugh at her . . . and yet . . . somehow it wasn't funny now. It was frightening and sad and wonderful, and an opportunity she didn't want to give up, even for them. (Datum number 25)

The citation above illustrates that Sarah still wants to reach her dream, as her older son would go to college and it give her the spirit to get it again although she know that it would be difficult because she should not leave her family. Although it seems ridiculous to make it happen in her age and condition but her heart said that it is the only opportunity for her by author naration's "*an opportunity she didn't want to give up, even for them*" making desicion to apply for Master degree in Harvard is the right choice for her and in the right time as Sarah's citation, "*I want to go back to school*" (see datum number 29) and "*I've been accepted for the master's program at Harvard*"(see datum number 30), Sarah as an educated woman choose to continue her study in order to prepare herself for one profession which she ever wanted as a writer.

In that time, women's issues such as sex discrimination, reproductive rights, care of children, economic equity across sex and racial lines get full attention from policy-makers. Federal law has established a woman's right to equal treatment in schools and in the workplace and women have taken advantage of these opportunities. (Harrison,1995:12)

In here the figure of Sarah in the novel is the symbol of women in that time who has the confidence to claim her existence and freedom. This action come out because since The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is signed into law. It mainly is written to protect the rights of all minorities including women's rights. The rights this law protected included: freedom of choice to vote, apply for employment, use of hotels, restaurants and all other public places. By this civil right, it means that women have the equal right just like men do. And the 1960's decade is a progressive time for the Women's Rights Movement in the United States as well as worldwide. This is mainly due to the large number of women pushing for social reform of equal treatment for women in all facets of life.

Meanwhile marriage should be the legal relationship between the man and

woman that unite the two different character that complete each other. In marriage conventionally the role of husband is to go out into the world: to work as breadwinner, to be the achiever, etc, then the role of wife is devoted the majority of her time to caring for the home and for the children. The wife is the care provider who make the clothes, case that the education which she got in the college should bring her to be more wise in marriage life. The education should make her even smarter in teaching and caring the children and also managing her life.

Because of the nature of woman is to become wife and mother as the member of society. When the liberal education develops globally, it gives many changes and opportunities especially for women in education, workforce, and social life as equal as men. With the equal opportunities and status, then women have the autonomy in making decision of their life. Beside that, there would be the time that women have to get married and giving birth and when the time come, women have to manage their time well and balance between work and family they have to be ready for that. If the women could survive in both work and family succesfully they could be called as the success women who could do the incredible jobs more than men.

## CONCLUSION

On this research I draw these conclusions from previous discussion. They are as below: Firsly, *Daddy* novel reflected the life of women in around 1960s to 1980s. It is the time

When women get the opportunity in getting higher education after World War II and women movements. And as being educated, women could get a job and be equal with men.

Secondly, *Daddy* novel is a simple reflection of the influence of women movement. By the characters, Steel describes the women issue in that time clearly. That the women issue as the main issue in women movement such as freedom of choice to vote,

apply for employment, use of hotels, restaurants, getting higher education and all other public places that led the changing of women role in society.

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