

DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY AND ITS IMPACTS ON VERONICA'S LIFE IN ANNE ENRIGHT'S *THE GATHERING*

Laili Alfi Arfiyatin

English Literature

Faculty of Languages and Arts

State University of Surabaya

arfiyatin@gmail.com

Mamik Tri Wedawati, S.S., M.Pd

English Department

Faculty of Languages and Arts

State University of Surabaya

xxx_xxxxx@gmail.com

Abstrak

Keluarga adalah tempat pertama dan fondasi bagi anak untuk belajar tentang kehidupan. Dalam keluarga, anak-anak menerima kebutuhan psikososial sebagai fondasi. Namun, terkadang keluarga tidak dapat melaksanakan fungsinya dengan baik. Anak-anak kadang-kadang membenci orang tua mereka dan sebaliknya orang tua menyalahkan anak-anak karena kenakalan mereka. Kondisi ini disebut disfungsi keluarga. Hal ini telah menjadi isu yang terjadi di seluruh dunia. Berdasarkan hal tersebut, penelitian ini diadakan untuk menjelajahi lebih lanjut tentang disfungsi keluarga yang direpresentasikan dalam novel Anne Enright yang berjudul *The Gathering*. Permasalahan yang dibahas dalam penelitian ini terkait dengan penggambaran disfungsi keluarga dan dampaknya terhadap kehidupan anak yang diwakili oleh seorang karakter anak dalam novel, Veronica. Konsep psikologi modern yang membahas tentang bagaimana sebuah keluarga dapat menjadi disfungsi karena beberapa faktor seperti kebiasaan buruk, keluarga dan masalah-masalah sosial yang mempengaruhi dan berkontribusi terhadap perilaku agresif atau kekerasan yang digunakan untuk mengungkapkan keluarga yang disfungsi. Kemudian konsep perkembangan anak digunakan untuk mengungkapkan dampak disfungsi keluarga pada perkembangan kehidupan anak. Analisis data menunjukkan bahwa keluarga di novel Anne Enright berjudul *The Gathering* merupakan keluarga yang disfungsi. Hal ini terbukti ada fungsi keluarga yang tidak bekerja dengan semestinya. Selain itu, ada juga disfungsi pola asuh yang menghantarkan keluarga dalam novel *The Gathering* menjadi keluarga yang memiliki ciri-ciri disfungsi keluarga. Oleh karena itu, disfungsi keluarga membuat Veronica tidak dapat memaafkan ibunya. Sebagai seorang perempuan dewasa dia bingung dengan perannya sebagai seorang ibu dan tidak bisa mengurus keluarganya sendiri. Disfungsi keluarga juga membuatnya resah dan menderita terhadap kehidupannya. Selain itu, disfungsi keluarga juga mengarahkannya kepada kenakalan remaja, menjadi *lost child*, dan *caretaker*.

Kata Kunci: Psikologi, psikologi modern, Keluarga, Disfungsi Keluarga, disfungsi pola asuh.

Abstract

Family is the first place and foundation for children to learn about life. In the family, children receive the psychosocial needs as the foundation of the family. However, sometimes family cannot fully carry out its functions well. Children sometimes hate their parents and otherwise the parents blame their children for the delinquency. This condition called dysfunctional family. Recently, it has become issue happened around the world. Based on that issue, this journal explains about dysfunctional family as represented in Anne Enright's *The Gathering*. The problems discussed in this journal are related to (1) describe dysfunctional family and (2) the impacts on child life as represented by a child characters in the novel, Veronica. The concept of modern psychology that discusses how a family can be a dysfunction due to several factors such as bad habits, family and social issues that affect and contribute to aggressive or violent behavior is used to describe the dysfunctional family. Then the concept of child development is used to reveal the impacts of dysfunction family on a child life development. The data analysis shows that family in Anne Enright's *The Gathering* is indicated as dysfunctional family. The family is dysfunctional extended family. It is proven that some family functions are not working properly. In addition, there are also some dysfunctional parenting styles delivering the family in novel *The Gathering* become a family that has the characteristics of dysfunctional family. Therefore, the dysfunctional family makes Veronica cannot forgive her mother. In addition, as an adult daughter, she confused with her role as a mother and cannot take care of her own family. Family dysfunction also makes her being restless and suffered throughout her life. In addition, dysfunctional family also brings her to juvenile delinquency, a lost child, and caretaker.

Keywords: psychology, psychology modern, family, dysfunctional family, dysfunctional parenting styles.

INTRODUCTION

Families have important role to prepare the next generation as the persistence of life. Families give effects to the children development which it becomes the first place for children learning about life. Erik Erikson in his work *Childhood and Society* states that human development is influenced by social and cultural factors (Erikson, 1977, p. 11). It can be interpreted that the social factors are families, where the children learn everything from their parents who care them from baby into adulthoods. As the cultural factors, such as the parents' background, the circumstances and the culture also indirectly influence how the human development develops as the parts of life. In Western, the child being seriously influenced by the actions of others, and that relationship between those social experiences, and his future behavioral, motivational, and moral development is absolute, fixed and knowable (Kagan, 1983, p. 409). In this case, human grows up based on how the parents educate the children. Parents have to give good example for children in order to develop their personality. In other words, family serves its function as a place for socialization.

Besides as a place for socialization, family also has the other functions. According to Friedman (Suprajitno, 2003, p. 13), generally, the functions of family are affective functions, socialization, reproductive, economic and health care function. In order to socialize which one is good or bad, family has to serve its affective functions. Children supposed to receive the foundation of the family, as their psychosocial needs, such as love, support and mutual respect among the family members in order to create stable personalities, enhance society, and create self-esteem. Besides that, in a family, children learn about life value and norms which exist in society. Shortly, family is a place where each members are fulfilled the satisfy needs and receive health care. In this case, family has to become a comfortable place for children to grow up.

Sometimes family does not work well and it does not function properly. It can happen when children have feeling of hatred to their parents because they may feel that the parents also do what they do. Children sometimes feel uncomfortable, such as they have low self-esteem, they do not believe to themselves or even they have unstable personalities in which they are blamed because they do something bad that is inappropriate with norms and values in the society. This condition called dysfunctional family. The term "dysfunctional family" can be assumed that dysfunctional family is the negation of the functional family; in this case, the family functions

do not work well. Furthermore, Boyd in Website of *Mudashram Institute of Spiritual Studies* said that a dysfunctional family is one in which the relationships between the parents and children are strained and unnatural. It is because one of the family members has a serious problem that impacts every other member of the family, and each member of the family feels constrained to adapt atypical roles within the family to allow the family as a whole to survive (Boyd, 1992).

When there is dysfunctional family, there is no happiness in it. Confusius thought that happiness and prosperity would prevail if would behave "correctly" as a family member. This meant that no one should fail in his filial obligations. That is, the proper relationship between ruler and subjects that was parents and children.

Many authors criticize their environment's problems through literary works. Most of them use novel. Novel is part of literature which is imitative depicts about life through the imaginative character. Novel also describes the real life. It cannot be denied that novel gives more detail than any other literary works. Individually, the author is the member of society who has opinion and critics to the society issues. Wellek and Warren said that the poet himself is a member of society, possessed of a specific social status (Wellek & Warren, 1942, p. 89). One of the authors is Anne Enright, an Irish writer and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, who criticize about family in Ireland. She raises the issue of dysfunctional family through her novel *The Gathering* which won the Man Booker Prize 2007 and becoming Irish novel of the Year in 2008.

The Gathering tells about family epic that represents a family dysfunction. In which, the dysfunctional family causes one of the characters' life in the novel suffered. The main character of the novel named Veronica is depicted as one of Hegarty children who is depressed because her lovely brother named Liam commits suicide. It causes her to trace back to her childhood family and finding the agent of Liam's suicidal action. In fact, as Liam's nearest sister who grew up together, she blames her mother as the agent of Liam's death. Because of her mother who cannot carry out her role as mother, Liam gets sexual abused in grandparents' house and so does Veronica who sees the abused. Because of the mother who has disturbed mental, the father imparts the children with secrecy. Besides that, Veronica's life is full of secret as the influence of her father's adjustment not to express something bad in front of her "zonked-out" mother who is almost unconscious. As a result, she is burdened during the whole life.

In addition, there is a previous study that also discuss about dysfunctional family. The thesis written by Feriandy Ryan Ekaputra titled *Frankie's Dysfunctional*

Family and Its Impact on His Personality in Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes: A Memoir* becomes comparative matters of this thesis. Ekaputra reveals dysfunctional family is caused by parents' behavior, social background, and dysfunctional parenting style. Besides that, he also reveals the impacts on a son personality through a character named Frankie that results Frankie becomes alcoholic, juvenile delinquent, lost and problem child. Meanwhile, this thesis will discuss about the same topic that is dysfunctional family in novel titled *The Gathering*. The differences between this thesis and the previous one are the impacts of dysfunctional family on a character whose the position as a daughter in the family. Besides that, the character also becomes a mother and a wife in the next life.

Furthermore, the topic dysfunctional family as like in *The Gathering* above is interesting to be explored more in this study, because dysfunctional family is an invisible problem and become issue that can occur in every family. This condition happened because most of families do not realize what dysfunctional family is. Therefore, this study has purpose to understand what dysfunctional family is. Besides that, this study also aims at revealing the impact of the dysfunctional family which is depicted in Anne Enright's *The Gathering* in order to understand how the dysfunctional family influences on Veronica's life as the children and a mother of two daughters.

As the background of the analysis is stated, two problems arise as the main things which serve as the main focus of the analysis. The problems are stated below:

- a. How is dysfunctional family depicted in Anne Enright's *The Gathering*?
- b. What are the impacts of dysfunctional family on Veronica's life in Anne Enright's *The Gathering*?

METHOD

Descriptive method is used in this study to reveal evidences about issue of dysfunctional family which happened in novel *The Gathering*. Qualitative research is descriptive. Bogdan and Biklen state that qualitative research is descriptive, the data collections are in the form of word or picture rather than numbers. They often contain quotation and try to describe what particular situation or written word is very important (Bogdan & Biklen, 2003: 30). Thus this method is used to undergo the analysis. The data are taken from the quotations in the novel *The Gathering* written by Anne Enright. In order to be able to collect the data, reading and understanding the content of the novel is needed. Reading a novel is not just reading a novel, to imagine and to browse for the background knowledge of the story of the novel is a must

in order to really understand the content of the novel itself. Quoting then be applied as an evident of the phenomenon being focused on. To describe dysfunctional family happened in Anne Enright's *The Gathering*, these quotes are analyzed using the concept of dysfunctional family as the main framework of the analysis which is seen from three viewpoints. Meanwhile, in order to reveal the impacts of dysfunctional family, this study will use Erikson's psychosocial theory for the detail besides this study also uses the basic roles of children.

FAMILY

Family can be defined from three viewpoints. According to Koerner and Fitzpatrick (2004), family can be defined structurally which is reviewed from the presence or absence the members of the family, such as father, mother, children, and the relatives. Besides that, family also can be described from its functions. For instances socialization, affective function, health care function, reproduction, and economic function. Furthermore, for the persistence of the family, family consists of interactions between family members.

According to Friedman (1998), Family has affective function, health care function, reproductive function, socialization, and economic function (Suprajitno, 2003, p. 13).

DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY

The term of "dysfunctional family" is the negation of "functional family". The functional family is a family which the functions work well in the family. According to George A. Boyd in website of *Mudashram Institute of Spiritual Studies* states that a dysfunctional family is one in which the relationships between the parents and children are strained and unnatural. This is usually because one of the family members has a serious problem that impacts every other member of the family, and each member of the family feels constrained to adapt atypical roles within the family to allow the family as a whole to survive. (Boyd, 1992)

In dysfunctional families, parents violate the boundaries of their children. Parents from these families do not respect their children's personal freedom and privacy; they discount their children's feelings, do not honor their attempts at independent thinking and decision-making, and do not allow them to experience their impulses toward creativity, spirituality and self-actualization. These deficits in the children's development are revisited by problems in their adult relationships and careers, and with raising their own families.

There are some characteristics of dysfunctional family; non-communication and secrecy, chronic anger and fear, unhealthy competition, inappropriate

dependence, and rigid roles within family. Whitfield adds that dysfunctional family is troubled family which has some characteristics of inconsistency, unpredictable, arbitrary, chaotic, and having mistreatment.

Dysfunctional family also happened if there are some dysfunctional parenting styles are put into effect into family. Illig states that there are three dysfunctional parenting styles (Illig, 1998, p. 3 & 50):

a. Punitive or harsh parenting style

It characterizes parenting styles that include the use of spanking, demands of obedience, and use of directives with little take-and-give with children. Such findings may conflict with cultural variations in acceptable parenting styles.

b. Indulgent parenting style

An indulgent parenting style involves loving, kind but permissive behaviors by parents

c. Negligent parenting style

It essentially is what it seems, the parents effectively ignore the child and allow she/he to do whatever he/she pleases with little guidance

According to Boyd (1992) children who grow up in dysfunctional family may could trauma and pain from your parents' actions, words, and attitudes. Because of this trauma, they grew up changed, different from other children, missing important parts of necessary parenting that prepare them for adulthood, missing parts of your childhood when they were forced into unnatural roles within your family.

PSYCHOSOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Psychosocial theory is a theory which emphasizes the idea of personality development that is intrinsically social and that the important issues of personality concern how people relate to others. One of the psychosocial theories is suggested by Erik Erikson at his psychosocial theory.

Like Freud and many others, Erik Erikson maintained that personality develops in a predetermined order. The outcome of this 'maturation timetable' is a wide and integrated set of life skills and abilities that function together within the autonomous individual. However, Instead of focusing on sexual development (like Freud), he was interested in how children socialize and how this affects their sense of self. Erikson's theory is one theory that has strong influence in psychology. Along with Sigmund Freud, Erikson got an important position in psychology. This is because it explains the stages of human development from birth to senior citizens; one thing is not done by Freud because Freud talks more in the human unconscious, the theory of Erikson that bring aspects of social life and cultural functions are considered more realistic. There are 8

(eight) personality development stages (Psychosocial Development in Infancy and Early Childhood). They are explained below (Erikson, 1977, p. 222):

a. Basic Trust vs. Basic Mistrust

The first stage of Erikson's theory of psychosocial development occurs between birth and one year of age (birth-18 months) and it is the most fundamental stage in life. In this stage because an infant is utterly dependent, the development of trust is based on the dependability and quality of the child's care givers. Children develop a sense of trust when caregivers provide reliability, care, and affection. During the growth if a child successfully develops trust, he or she will feel safe and secure in the world. However caregivers who are inconsistent, emotionally unavailable, or rejecting contribute to feelings of mistrust in the children they care for. Failure to develop trust will result in fear and a belief that the world is inconsistent and unpredictable

b. Autonomy vs. Shame and Doubt

The second stage of Erikson's theory of psychosocial development takes place during early childhood and is focused on children developing a greater sense of personal control. Erikson believed that toilet training was a vital part of this process. However, Erikson's reasoning was quite different than that of Freud's. Erikson believe that learning to control one's body functions leads to a feeling of control and a sense of independence. Children who successfully complete this stage feel secure and confident, while those who do not are left with a sense of inadequacy and self-doubt

c. Initiative vs. Guilt

In this stage, children begin to assert their power and control over the world through directing play and other social interaction. In this phase, children who are given more opportunities to initiate their activities and imagination have their sense of initiative reinforced. Initiative is also reinforced when parents answer their children's questions (intellectual initiative) and do not insult or inhibit their fantasy or play activity. Therefore, children who are successful at this stage feel capable and able to lead others. On the other hand, if the children are made to feel that their activities are bad or silly or stupid things and that their questions are a nuisance, as a result they may develop a sense of guilt and a sense of lacking initiative that will persist through later life stages.

d. Industry vs. Inferiority

This stage covers the early school years. Through social interactions, children begin to develop a sense of pride in their accomplishments and abilities. Children who are encouraged and commended by parents and teachers develop a feeling of competence and belief in their skills. Those who receive little or no encouragement from

parents, teachers, or peers will doubt their ability to be successful

e. Identity vs. Role Confusion

During adolescence approximately age 12 to 18, children are exploring their independence and developing a sense of self. Those who receive proper encouragement and reinforcement through personal exploration will emerge from this stage with a strong sense of self and a feeling of independence and control. Those who remain unsure of their beliefs and desires will be insecure and confused about themselves and the future. The basic task of this period is to separate oneself from one's parents – especially the same-sex parent – and to assume an identity of one's own (Flaming, 2009, pp. 9-11).

f. Intimacy vs. Isolation

This stage approximately 19 to 40 years covers the period of early adulthood when people are exploring personal relationships. Erikson believed it was vital that people develop close, committed relationships with other people. Those who are successful at this step will develop relationships that are committed and secure. Remember that each step builds on skills learned in previous steps. Erikson believed that a strong sense of personal identity was important to developing intimate relationship. Studies have demonstrated that those with a poor sense of self tend to have less committed relationships and are more likely to suffer emotional isolation, loneliness, and depression

g. Generativity vs. Stagnation

During adulthood approximately 40 to 65 years, adult children continue to build the lives, focusing on career and family. Those who are successful during this phase will feel that they are contributing to the world by being active in their home and community. Those who fail to attain this skill will feel unproductive and uninvolved in the world

h. Ego Integrity vs. Despair

This phase occurs during old age and is focused on reflecting back on life. Those who are unsuccessful during this phase will feel that their life has been wasted and will experience many regrets. The individual will be left with feelings of bitterness and despair. Those who feel proud of their accomplishments will feel a sense of integrity. Successfully completing this phase means looking back with few regrets and a general feeling of satisfaction. These individuals will attain wisdom, even when confronting death

DATA ANALYSIS

Dysfunctional family is an issue that may be happened in every family. It is true that divorce marriage is a dysfunctional family, but it is more than that.

Dysfunctional family can give great negative impacts in children life.

Likewise in a novel titled *The Gathering* written by Anne Enright. This novel tells about a dysfunctional family in which Veronica as the main character grows up in the dysfunctional family. Her childhood family is not a divorce family, she lives with an intact family with a father, a mother, and eleven siblings, but her family can be described as dysfunctional family because she lives with an unhealthy mother, a father who has flaring temper, and an alcoholic suicide brother that make her whole life become desperate and suffering.

Dysfunctional family can be seen from the negation of functional family and the characteristics of dysfunctional family that exist in the family and also it can be seen from the dysfunctional parenting styles that are used for educating the children as the interaction between family members.

Veronica's Dysfunctional Family

The term 'dysfunctional family' is the negation of 'functional family'. Functional family means the family function is working properly. Otherwise, the dysfunctional family means the family function is not worked properly.

In *The Gathering*, Veronica's family has affective function, health care function, and economic function but they are not working in a satisfactory and successful way. This condition can be seen from the family condition and Veronica's condition especially.

I don't forgive her those dead children either. The way she didn't even keep a notebook, so you could tell who had what, when, and which jobs. Am I the only woman in Ireland still at risk from polio myelitis? No one knows. I don't forgive the endless hand-me-downs, and few toys, and Midge walloping us because my mother was too gentle, or busy, or absent, or pregnant to bother. (Enright, 2007, p. 8)

Veronica's condition which suffers polio myelitis until she becomes an adult woman indicates that the family is lack of health care function, the death of her siblings also indicates that the family is dysfunction in health care function. The dysfunctional health care function may be caused by family condition which is insufficient economic function. The statement that Veronica plays with few-toys and wears her sisters' cast-off indicates that the family condition is not working in a satisfactory way of economic function. Besides that, Veronica statement that she don't forgive her mother indicates that she receives lack of affective function.

Besides that, the dysfunctional family is also shown by there is no supervision and control from

parents. It is proven from Veronica's siblings who have delinquency.

Don't tell Mammy. This from Midge, especially, but also from any one of the older ones. If something was split, if Bea did not come home or Mossie went up live in the attic, or Liam dropped acid, or Alice had sex, or Kitty bled buckets into her new school uniform, or any number of phone messages about delays, snarl-ups, problems with bus money and taxi money, and once, catastrophically, Liam's night in the cells. (Enright, 2007, p. 9)

The children delinquency above appears because of the wrong parenting styles. In which, the worry about Veronica's mother condition makes her father imparts their children to not express their feelings and talks about something bad in front of their mother by saying "Don't tell Mammy" and it had been entrenched in the family. As a result, in the adolescence if there is something bad such as juvenile delinquency happened to Veronica's siblings, it does not become something taboo to report the bad things to the parents.

"Don't tell Mammy" also indicates that the family has one of the characteristics of dysfunctional family of non-communication and secrecy. In which, Veronica's family survive the live with keeping secret towards something bad. They believe that with not talking about something bad, the problems will be solved.

In addition, Veronica's childhood family also shows that her family has over-reproductive function. It is proven that her mother has twelve children and seven miscarriages with the lack of economic condition. It means also that Veronica and her other siblings such as Liam and her sister Kitty receive lack of attention from her mother because her mother is busy too pregnant.

Functionally, Veronica's family, the family which is describes in Anne Enright's *The Gathering* can be classified as dysfunctional family.

Dysfunctional Parenting Styles

Parenting styles is a way of interaction among parents and children. How the parents interact and educate the children and sometimes parents have dysfunctional parenting styles. According to Illig (1998), there are three dysfunctional parenting styles, punitive or harsh parenting styles, indulgent parenting styles, and negligent parenting styles.

In *The Gathering*, father as the only one parents that can fully carry out and can take care the children because the mother is unhealthy, has some dysfunctional parenting styles in educating their children. He often applies harsh parenting styles to his sons and he rarely applies it to his daughters.

I remember it because, although my father used to hit his children all the time, more or less, it was never personal. He might slap three at a time and let the fourth go or he might stomp among us with his hand raised as we ran, shrieking, around him. The boys were different, of course, but in the main my father hit us, not because he was in charge, but because we were in charge. (Enright, 2007, p. 226)

It can be concluded that Veronica's father is a strict person, his character that has flaring temper, may lead the family has the characteristics of dysfunctional family rigid rules within family. As the result, the family becomes troubled family or it can be said dysfunctional family, because one of the results of the troubled system is the family has one of type of troubled system that is dogmatic disturbed family system.

Meanwhile, he often applies negligent parenting styles to his daughters. From the different treatment from Veronica's father, it can be indicated that the family is unpredictable and inconsistent.

For a weeks, Daddy could not look at me, and this hurt me in the Daddy-loves-his-little-girl place; the place where you trust and flirt. But though it hurt, I found that I was able to draw on more ancient hurts than that – and this is how I survived. This is how we survive. We default to the oldest scar. (Enright, 2007, pp. 96-97)

The Impacts of Dysfunctional Family on Veronica's Life

To reveal the impacts of dysfunctional family on Veronica's life, this study will use Erikson's theory of psychosocial development, because Erikson's theory discuss about the development of individualistic life which is influenced by social environment, in this case social environment is the family. Below are the explanations of the impacts of dysfunctional family on Veronica's life, the main character of the novel *The Gathering*, based on Erikson's psychosocial development theory.

a) Basic Trust vs. Basic Mistrust

The first stage usually extends through the first year of life (birth-18 months). In this phase, an infant develops a sense of trust of the world as a safe place to be and of people as helpful and dependable. The infant develops a sense of trust when caregivers provide reliability, care, and affection. Meanwhile, a sense of mistrust exists when the caregivers are inconsistent, inadequate and rejecting, and it fosters an attitude of fear and suspicion on the part of the infant toward the world

in general and people in particular that will carry through to later stages of development.

In this phase, the **basic mistrust** of Veronica is more prominent than her **basic trust**. The **mistrust** is shown by her unforgiving expression to her mother, as stated in the statement below:

I don't forgive her those dead children either. The way she didn't even keep a notebook, so you could tell who had what, when, and which jabs. Am I the only woman in Ireland still at risk from polio myelitis? No one knows. I don't forgive the endless hand-me-downs, and few toys, and Midge walloping us because my mother was too gentle, or busy, or absent, or pregnant to bother. (Enright, 2007, p. 8)

From the statement "I don't forgive her [mother]" shows that Veronica's mistrust to her mother as the caretaker grows hugely. From the statement "Am I the only woman who still at risk from polio myelitis" indicates her feelings that she lives on an uncomfortable place and insecure world. From that statement, it also shows that her caregiver (her mother) provides her with lacking of attention. In the basic virtues of this phase called hope, children who suffer disease such as Veronica hope that they should be paid and got more attention from her parents.

"The endless hand-me-downs" which means that Veronica receives her brothers' and sisters' cast-off indicates Veronica's disappointment that she is actually uncomfortable with the family condition which is lack of money, because the parents can't heal Veronica's "polio myelitis". It can also be indicated that her parents fail to give Veronica enough care and affection. In addition, the role of "Midge" who will become substitution caretaker with her "walloping" as an act of giving punishment makes Veronica feels more uncomfortable and contributes to Veronica's fear.

b) *Autonomy vs. Shame and Doubt*

In this stage, a two or three years-old child, should learn to control one's body functions in order to create a sense of independence. Erikson believes that toilet training is the vital part of this stage. Likewise with Veronica, in this phase she is trained by her grandparents, as substitution parents with toilet training. As stated in the statement below:

Here's me at the age of three, [...] eating Ada's rubber bathing hat whose famous yellow flowers appeared in my nappy the next day. Though, of course, it must have been Kitty's nappy-hardly mine, at the age of three. Ada shouting for

Charlie, who looked over her shoulder and said, 'Where did we get such a clever girl?'

Of course I was jealous of my little sister, but I had a peculiar, fierce love for her too. [...] Though no man, I now realise, ever puts his hand into a dirty nappy, as I can see Charlie doing in my mind's eyes, to pull out a posy of shitty yellow flowers. (Enright, 2007, p. 99)

From the statement above, it can be identified that a sense of **autonomy** in Veronica does not still develop yet at the age of three. It is proved that Veronica is still bed wetting in her nappy at the age of three as stated "famous yellow flowers appeared in my nappy the next day" that means Veronica's faeces still appeared in her nappy. Ada and Charlie train her with toilet training which is the vital part of the process for building children's autonomy. Ada who is as the trainer have used "rubber bathing" as the preferred toy for building Veronica's mood in order that her autonomy and her will power can grow in herself or on the other word she wants to go to toilet autonomously. But, the way Charlie "puts his hand into [Veronica's] dirty nappy, to pull out a posy of shitty yellow flowers" makes Veronica feels **shame**. She is jealous to her little sister, Kitty, who is good enough in toilet training and get a praise from Ada "Where did we get such a clever girl?."

Actually, the preferred toys and Ada's praise given to Veronica are facilities for motivating her mood in order that she begins to like another toys such as bathing cap. She likes to pull "the bathing cap over my [Veronica's] face" and she likes to "lick the salty inside of it". Otherwise, the **self-doubt** grows strong in Veronica's self. It is proved by the statement below:

Sometimes, in second-hand clothes shops, I look for objects like these, thinking that if I could hold the hat in my hands, if I could stretch it and smell it, then I would know which was which and who was who out of Kitty, and Liam, and me. (Enright, 2007, p. 100)

From the statement above, it can be implied that Veronica have a sense of inadequacy and she **doubt** herself. Actually, she can choose clothes for herself, Kitty, and Liam, but she is not confident. She cannot choose the clothes for her brother and sister because she could not hold the hat, stretch it, and smell it. Meanwhile, she does not have an enough braveness to ask holding the hat and she does not feel confident to choose the clothes.

c) *Initiative vs. Guilt*

Initiative is a necessary part of every act. In this stage, an infantile genitality add to the inventory of basic social modalities that of 'making', first in the sense of 'being on the make'. In which, in the boy, the emphasis

remains on phallic-intrusive modes. In the girl, it turns to modes of 'catching' in more aggressive forms of snatching or in the milder form of making oneself attractive and endearing (Erikson, 1977, pp. 229-230). As one of Hegarty's daughters, Veronica connects what she has learned from Ada into an imaginative act such as in the statement below:

'If the Virgin Mary was assumed bodily into heaven, then where does she go to the toilet?'

'What did you say?' Daddy is looking at me.

'If the Virgin Mary was assumed bodily into heaven, then where does She go to the toilet?' and my father has hit me before I see his hand move.

This was shortly after we came back from Ada's, when I was in the height of my religious phase. (Enright, 2007, p. 226)

From this sentence, it can be identified that Veronica is extremely active with a curiosity. It is a Veronica's intellectual **initiative** with throwing 'imitation' question about Virgin Mary. The question is exactly happened "After she [Veronica] came back from Ada's" that is exactly after she is invited by Ada from "St. Dymphna" (Enright, 2007, p. 118), one of churches in Broadstone, near Ada's house and Veronica meets with "Sister Benedict" who introduces her about Virgin Mary for the first time. Eventually, Veronica learns about Virgin Mary through her imaginative thought. "If the Virgin Mary was assumed bodily into heaven, then where does she go to the toilet?" Veronica imagines Virgin Mary and connects her with an infantile sexuality "the toilet" which becomes the previous problem (bed-wetting) for Veronica at her previous stage. This imagination is something taboo in her father's mind who is a Catholic. Veronica's imagination is a catching initiative but it is in the aggressive forms of snatching. So that, the father hits Veronica even Veronica does not see his hand move for hitting her as the reflex because father loses his patience. Therefore, he does not have enough time to explain or perhaps he cannot answer Veronica's imaginative question.

In addition, the mantra "Don't tell Mammy" is imparted by the father to the children as the unwritten rules in the Hegarty family in order to keep the mother's health. This condition makes Veronica has responsibility as "the keeper of the flame" (Enright, 2007, p. 42), until she "can not hear what I [Veronica] say" that means she ignores her own feelings. On the other side, the Veronica's responsibility as "the keeper of the flame" and father's gallant that "there's no need to tell your mother now" (Enright, 2007, p. 9) makes a sense of guilt grow up in Veronica's self. The sense of **guilt** is showed

by the statement "Like it is all my fault" (Enright, 2007, p. 25). The guilt exists because she must keep the anger to her mother, while she continues to keep secret on Liam's suicide in order to keep her mother's condition that is considered becoming bad as the statement "Mammy would worry" (Enright, 2007, p. 9) if she hears a kind of bad news. Meanwhile, Veronica's conscience said that she must say about the reason why Liam is death to her mother because Liam is one of Maureen's children. In this case, Veronica's guilt is caused by the competition between her conscience and her oedipal feeling that is father's instruction.

d) *Industry vs. Inferiority*

In this stage, children "learns to win recognition by producing things" (Erikson, 1977, p. 233) that means children are expected to have competence and to believe in their skills that is industry. On the contrary, children who lack of competence and/or not believing in their skills will be inferiority. Likewise, Veronica as one of children who grows up in the Hegarty dysfunctional family feels inferior as stated in the statement below:

There were girls at school whose families grew to a robust five or six. There were girls with seven or eight – which was thought a little enthusiastic – and then there were the pathetic ones like me, who had parents that were just helpless to it, and bred as naturally as they might shit. (Enright, 2007, p. 25)

The statement above shows Veronica's **inferiority**. It can be identified that Veronica's competence is not good enough as "the girls at school whose families grew to a robust five or six" that means some of her family's friends at school who has five or six siblings grow up as normal and healthy children. She also feels that she is not playful and enthusiastic as "girls at school with seven or eight" siblings who they are "thought a little enthusiastic". She feels different from others because she feels that she is ill prepared for school and she is "the pathetic ones" who suffers "polio myelitis". She is lack of life's experience that "her parents were just helpless to it" because her parents "bred as naturally as they might shit" that means her parents are inadequate in socializing her and in making her life feels comfortable.

This stage is a time for children to forget the past wishes and hopes. The children must produce something; they must begin to be a worker and potential provider (Erikson, 1977, p. 231). Below is the statement of Veronica's **industry** process:

He wasn't worst. Daddy was a lecturer in the local teacher training college, so between the long holidays and the short hours, he was often around; marshaling, ordering, directing traffic; carrying in boxes of winter vegetables from the early morning market like he was running a summer camp and not a family. Though all this must have stopped sometime too – by the time I was in secondary school we lived on sending the twins down to the corner shop for rashers; Ernest or Mossie jingling the change in his pocket to see if there was enough there for a fry-up. None of Hegartys was mean. Even I, the coolest of the Hegartys, am not stingy. This is more than a social thing, it's like a religious taboo; a mean person still makes my skin crawl, I have to turn and look the other way. (Enright, 2007, p. 43)

The sentence "He [father] wasn't worst" indicates that Veronica respects her Daddy's efforts for scraping the livelihood which are by "marshaling, ordering, directing traffic; carrying in boxes of winter vegetables from the early morning market". She understands that her father's job does not always get payment routinely because of holiday. What her Daddy does for the family livelihood inspires Veronica to produce something that can help gratifying family needs as what her brothers do; "the twins [Ivor and Jem] down to the corner shop for rashers, Ernest or Mossie jingling the change in his pocket to see if there was enough there for fry-up". Therefore, what her father does motivates Veronica "to turn and look the other way". Veronica becomes journalist as stated "I used to be a journalist" (Enright, 2007, p. 39)

An adolescent will see her same sex parents' figure as the role model how to behave and have a certain kind of attitude. In order "to turn and look the other way" how to survive with such a family poor condition, Veronica explores the independence by seeing in Ada's figure who is her grandmother and also as her substitute mother. Veronica sees Ada as the figure model because in Veronica's self grows a sense of mistrust to her own mother. That means Ada is the only same sex parent who has been a role model of adult women and can be seen by her as adolescent girl as stated in the statement "Ada Merriman, my modest, ardent grandmother, was the things poets wrote about, in 1925" (Enright, 2007, p. 21). Meanwhile, her own mother cannot become an adult woman model for her as stated in the statement "Ada herself existed in a distinct way that my mother could not" (Enright, 2007, p. 47). Besides that, she sees Ada because Ada can also survive her life from the poor

condition as an orphan, although it is done with a 'different' way, that is with whoring way. In which, Ada struggle her life with having sex with a man for money as stated in the statement "She was not a blowsy whore, of course – she was an orphan. She was barely a whore at all. She was a poor girl, who turned her face to the wall as the coins clinked on to the bedside table, and the dark shape of a man left the room." (Enright, 2007, p. 92)

e) *Identity vs. Role Confusion*

The finding identity is a process of healing the crisis of previous stage, in this case her inferiority. In which Veronica feels inferior and not confidence with her condition that suffers from polio myelitis. In finding the identity, as a part of puberty, Veronica has a relationship with a boyfriend as stated in the statement below:

I fell in love, I am beginning to realize, in my early twenties, when I met and slept with a guy from Brooklyn called Michael Weiss. He was in Dublin for an MA in Irish studies or Celtic studies, or what have you – we despised those courses, they were just something the college did to get rich Americans, and so I was surprised to find myself in love with Michael Weiss. (Enright, 2007, p. 80)

From the statement above, it can be identified that Veronica is entering college and she interacts with rich person. Veronica has a relationship and falls in love with a rich boy. She interacts with rich persons and studying in the college, in order to "turn and look the other way". Therefore, she is despised to change her poor condition. She turns and looks the other way with studying in college, because according to the statement "what have you – we despised those courses, they were just something the college did to get rich Americans" studying in college can change the consideration of social class becomes higher than before.

Unfortunately, the relationship with a rich boy named Michael Weiss drives her becoming delinquent girl as stated in the statement below:

There were things I told Michael Weiss, that year, that I haven't told anyone since. It was 1981. Nothing had happened yet, in Ireland – is that a funny thing to say? Nothing had happened yet in my life except the need to get out of it. I obliged him, once, to manhandle me around the room and up and down the street to walk off an, admittedly small, overdose of paracetamol. I gave Michael Weiss a wonderful, hard time and I rode him rotten, when all he wanted to do was prop himself up on one arm, and look at my face, and talk me down.

My image of these nights is a woman (myself) lying on a bed, with her back arched, and her mouth open, and her hand scrabbling for the wall. No sound. (Enright, 2007, p. 88)

From the statement above it can be identified that the relationship with Weiss makes Veronica becomes "delinquent" girl in which she "obliged him to [...] overdose of paracetamol" that means she begins to use drugs. The delinquent behavior in which she force Weiss to have sex with her and "obliged him to overdose of paracetamol" because perhaps Veronica wants to be considered as attractive girl as like as her "modest" grandmother who "was the thing poets wrote about, in 1925" (Enright, 2007, p. 21) that means Ada is the figure that was admired by boys at that time.

On the other hand, the basic task of this period is to separate oneself from one's parents – especially the same sex parent and to assume an identity of one's own (Flaming, 2009, pp. 9-11). Likewise with Veronica, the statement above shows that her image as like her grandmother turned her face to the wall as the coins clinked on to the bedside table, and the dark shape of a man left the room." (Enright, 2007, p. 92). Therefore, she feels guilty with her image becoming bad which is such as a whore. It is supported by the evidences in the statement below:

There was nothing Daddy would not say. He had no sense of distance. He might have been talking to himself, almost. I was *whoring all over Dublin*. I was *second-hand goods*, I was *turning myself into a toilet* – I kid you not – though I think what he really wanted to say was that I was *not doing what I was told*. (Enright, 2007, p. 96)

The statement above shows that Veronica is a juvenile delinquent. She is not yet adult and she is guilty for committing crime by doing big mistake that is "whoring all over Dublin". Therefore, her father disappointed with Veronica as stated "for a few weeks, Daddy could not look at me, and this hurt me" (Enright, 2007, p. 96). She feels guilty because she disappoints her father. She acts something immoral, she breaks the norms that is hoped by father as stated "I think what he really wanted to say was that I was not doing what I was told".

The difficult social circumstances above make Veronica find different way to own her identity for surviving the life. Later, Veronica's identity is shown by the statement "I used to be a journalist. I used to write about shopping (well someone has to). Now I look after the kids – what's that called?" (Enright, 2007, p. 39). She turns her life with becoming a journalist. But, from that statement, it can be identified that as a woman Veronica

confuses to her role whether she has to continue to work or not in her condition "now I look after the kids".

f) Intimacy vs. Isolation

In this stage, Erikson believes that this stage is the vital for developing close and committed relationships with other people. The committed relationships here can be interpreted as the marriage relationship. Those who are successful at this step will develop relationships that are committed and secure. On the contrary, people with a poor sense of self tend to have less committed relationships and are more likely to suffer emotional isolation, loneliness, and depression.

Veronica as the main character of the novel gets married with Tom. The relationship with Tom is an **intimacy** form, because Veronica has committed relationship with her husband. As the children who live in the circumstances of dysfunctional family, she is depressed with her own family life as stated in the statement below:

Tom had sex with me the night of the wake—as if Liam's death had blown all the cobwebs away: the fuss and the kids and the big, busy job and the late nights spent strenuously not sleeping with other women. He was getting back to basics: telling me that he loved me, telling me that my brother might be dead but that he was very much alive. Exercising his right. I love my husband, but I lay there with one leg on either side of his dancing, country-boy hips and I did not feel alive. I felt like a chicken when it is quartered. (Enright, 2007, p. 39)

From the statement above, it can be identified that Veronica has less committed relationship with her husband Tom. Although Tom tries to build the commitment with giving Veronica such a promise and support as like portrayed in the statement "He was getting back to basics: telling me that he loved me, telling me that my brother might be dead but that he was very much alive", Veronica feels imprisoned with her relationship as stated "I did not feel alive. I felt like a chicken when it is quartered." Her mind and her spirit has different place. In which her mind is flying away to Liam's death while her spirit must be in husband side.

It is able to be concluded that she fails in this stage, because she feels **isolate** with her committed relationship. Although she has a husband who gives full of attention as stated he often says to her "don't stay up all night" (Enright, 2007, p. 37), she feels lonely. It is proven by the evidences of the statement below:

Indeed. I have been so much touched these last few days. I cross my legs over the memory of

the sex we had the night of the wake. Or he had. And wait for the Mass to begin. Everyone wants a bit of me. And it has nothing to do with what I might want, or what my body might want, whatever that might be—God knows it is a long time since I knew. There I am, sitting on a church bench in my own meat: pawed, used, loved, and very lonely. (Enright, 2007, p. 244)

From the statement above, it can be identified that Veronica actually receives many attention due to Liam's death as stated implicitly "I have been so much touched these last few days", but she regrets having sex with her husband as stated "I cross my legs over the memory of the sex we had the night of the wake". Veronica's feeling of **isolation** is shown by the words "pawed, used, loved, and very lonely" that also indicates she feels insecure with her relationship.

g) *Generativity vs. Stagnation*

In the age of 40 to 65 years, an adult who is successful during this phase will feel that they are contributing to the world by being active in their home. According to Erikson, in the phase of generativity, an adult concerns in establishing and guiding the next generation, although there are individuals who, through misfortune or because of special and genuine gifts in other directions, do not apply this drive to their own offspring.

Veronica's stage of **generativity** in *The Gathering* is shown by the statement: Now I look after the kids – what's that called?" (Enright, 2007, p. 39) Which means that she has responsible to "look after the kids" for guiding her next generations who named Rebecca and Emily, her daughters.

Furthermore, Veronica belongs to be the individuals who through misfortune in her life because she has special gift from her mother in other directions by concerning in taking care of manage her mother's house in "Griffith Way", though she ought to focus on her children. As it is illustrated in the statement below:

After my mother reaches over and hits me, for the first time, at the age of seventy to my thirty-nine, my mind surges, almost bursts, with the unfairness of it all. I think I will die of unfairness; I think it will be written on my death certificate. That this duty should devolve to me, for a start – because I am the careful one, of course. I have a car, an accommodating phone bill. I have daughters who are not obliged to fight over who is wearing the other one's knickers in the morning before they go to school. So I am the one who has to drive over to Mammy's and ring the doorbell and put myself

in a convenient hitting position on the other side of her kitchen table. It is not as if I got these things by accident – husband, car, phone bill, daughters. [...] and I am boiling mad with Liam for being dead too, just now, when I need him most. Quite literally, I am beyond myself. (Enright, 2007, p. 10)

From the statement above it can be identified that Veronica's sense of generativity; which she should be concerned with others beyond her immediate family with her daughters and husband named Tom as stated in her statement before Liam dies: "I have to keep her [Rebecca] happy. I have to be in love with her father and keep her happy, or this thing will happen to her, she will turn into one of those people that you pass every day on the street" (Enright, 2007, p. 69); falls into her state of self-absorption which is shown by her statement "Quite literally, I am beyond myself" in which her personal needs and comforts are of predominant concern. In this case, Veronica's state of self-absorption or the thing that makes her comfort is about Liam's death. In which, she has not accept Liam's death yet and she is busy with revealing Liam's death because she "need him [Liam] most.

In addition, the Veronica's self-absorption later results the **stagnation** in her life, as illustrated in the statement:

What else can I do? We could not afford a divorce. Besides I do not want to leave him, that is all. So my husband is waiting for me to sleep with him again, and I am waiting for something else. I am waiting for things to become clear. So we do nothing. We divide our time. At least I do. I take what Tom has left me of the day – there is plenty of it - and I live in his sleep. (Enright, 2007, p. 37)

It can be identified that Veronica's self-absorption, "waiting for things to become clear" that is the agent of Liam's suicide, makes her love and care for her husband **stagnant**. The statement that "we could not afford a divorce" indicates the **stagnation** of her love she cannot do anything for her own family which actually becomes her main concern.

h) *Ego Integrity vs. Despair*

In this stage, usually people reflect back on the life they have lived and come away with either a sense of fulfillment from a life well lived or a sense of regret and despair over a life misspent. Successfully completing this stage means they fulfill with a sense of integrity by looking back with few regrets and a general feeling of satisfaction. They will feel proud of their accomplishment. These individuals will attain wisdom,

even when confronting death. The statement below shows Veronica's ego integrity:

There is something wonderful about death, how everything shuts down, and all the ways you thought you were vital are not even vaguely important. Your husband can feed the kids, he can work the new oven, he can find the sausages in the fridge, after all. And his important meeting was not important, not in the slightest. And the girls will be picked up from school, and dropped off again in the morning. Your eldest daughter can remember her inhaler, and your youngest will take her gym kit with her, and it is just you suspected – most of the stupid, really stupid, most of the stuff you do is just nagging and whining and picking up for people who are too lazy even to love you, even that, let alone find their own shoes under their own bed; people who turn and accuse you – scream at you sometimes – when they can only find one shoe. (Enright, 2007, p. 27)

From the statement, Veronica's **integrity** is becoming a good mother. What happened in the past; that her mother, Maureen, did to Veronica and her brothers and sisters; ought to teach her for giving attention to her daughters, Rebecca and Emily. The past events that happened in her childhood family should teach her the wisdom.

Otherwise, from the statement above, it shows Veronica's bitterness, that she lived with unfairness of her past life. She feels that she is a useless wife. She is jealous with her husband who "can feed the kids [Rebecca and Emily]" and who "can find the sausage in the fridge" that means he can prepare the food autonomously without Veronica's help such as what Veronica's father did in the past. She is anxious about her kids' love to her like her love to her mother that she cannot forgive her mother. She is worry that her kids give more love to Tom as their father who "picked [them] up from school, and dropped [them] off again in the morning. Whereas, Veronica feels that what Veronica's mother did in the past happened in her life with her own family, because what she suspects is "just nagging and whining and picking up for people who are too lazy even to love you," that means her suspicion is representation of losing her hope such as educate her children (Rebecca and Emily) for standing alone with "let[ting] alone find their own shoes under their own bed" but "people who turn and accuse you – scream at you sometimes – when they can only find one shoe". It can be concluded that Veronica is unsuccessful during this stage. She leaves with feelings of bitterness and despair.

From some explanations above, it is able to be summarized that because of dysfunctional family, Veronica's mistrust is more prominent than her trust toward her mother. Furthermore, Veronica also feels guilt and inferior. Besides that, she also becomes juvenile delinquent girl. She also has difficulty in her committed relationship. She isolates herself from her husband. Dysfunctional family also makes Veronica feels stagnant toward her life.

After revealing every stages of Veronica's life development from birth until she becomes adult and how the environments influence him. Below are some impacts of dysfunctional family on Veronica with the several children behavior.

1) *Caretaker*

Caretaker is the one who takes responsibility for the emotional well-being of the family. Likewise with Veronica, she becomes the caretaker of the family. She buries her feelings in order to keep the emotional family condition. This children roles (caretaker) is shown by the statement below:

I am the keeper of the flame, and I am so furious with her that I can not hear what I say, or what she says for another little while as the countryside, in all its different speeds and directions, runs past the window and we fight our way back to safe ground. (Enright, 2007, p. 42)

From the statement above, it can be inferred that Veronica is "the keeper of the flame" who keeps the emotional well-being of the family. She victimizes her feeling to not express her feeling, angriness, and disappointment in order to "safe ground" that means avoids family condition from the pain and anger, especially for the sake of mother's health condition.

For the sake of mother's condition, Veronica has responsibility for keeping and caring her mother's condition, as stated in the statement below:

I must go over and touch her. I must take her by the shoulders and lift her gently up and away. I will squeeze her arms back down by her sides as I push and guide her to a chair, and put sugar in her cup of tea, though she does not take sugar. I will do all this in deference to a grief that is biological, idiot, timeless. (Enright, 2007, p. 11)

Veronica has responsibility or even, obligation to keep her mother; such as she "must go over", see, and "touch her", and also she must take care her in a gently way. From the statement above that she "put sugar in her cup of tea, though she does not take sugar" shows that she is over-responsible for caring her mother. The responsibility also is shown by her promise that she "will do all this [caring the mother; such as squeezing her mother's arms

back down and guiding her mother to a chair] in deference to a grief". She "must" to take care her mother condition, although that all she do in deference is something idiot and timeless.

2) *The Lost Child*

The Veronica's position as the eighth children of Hegarty family makes her sent to her grandma's house in Broadstone, because her "mother was too gentle, or busy, or absent, or pregnant to bother" (Enright, 2007, p. 8). This condition makes her become the inconspicuous one who feels like an outsider in a family. As stated in the statement below:

Of course she knows who I am, it is just my name that escapes her. Her eyes flick from side to side as she wipes one after another off her list. (Enright, 2007, p. 4)

Based on the statement above, Veronica feels that she is ignored by her mother, because her mother does not remember her name. It is illustrated by "her eyes flick from side to side as she wipes one after another off her list" that means her mother still has to find in the list the name of her eighth daughter. She feels that her mother does not pay attention to her.

The Veronica's feeling of being ignored is also shown by the statement below:

Behind me, my mother opens the sitting room door.
'Will you have something? A cup of tea?'
But I do not want to go into the sitting room. I am not a visitor. This is my house too. I was inside it, as it grew; as the dining room was knocked into the kitchen, as the kitchen swallowed the back garden. It is the place where my dreams still happen. (Enright, 2007, p. 4)

From the statement above, it can be identified that Veronica feels that she is treated as like the visitor in her own house where she grew inside it. She feels that she is treated by her mother as a stranger such as the statement "Will you have something? A cup of tea?" that means Veronica is invited by her mother to have a cup of tea together in the sitting room where the visitor usually stay. Meanwhile, Veronica is the children who grew inside the house and she knows the sketch location of the house that "the dining room was knocked into the kitchen, as the kitchen swallowed the back garden". Even, Veronica still remember the situation of the kitchen where the place of her dreams still happen with some stuffs inside it, such as "cupboards full of old sheets; something cooked and dusty about the lagging around the immersion heater; and the chair where father sit in" (Enright, 2007, p. 5).

As the impact of dysfunctional family, Veronica who is the children the Hegarty family feels lonely, which is also one of the characterizations of lost child, the six basic roles of dysfunctional family children. As stated clearly in the statement below:

I wasn't horrified, I just feel lonely. Not because Charlie was gone – I didn't care about Charlie, I hated Charlie, I hoped he was heaving with maggots under that suit. But because I didn't want to be in that room, and nobody cared. My feelings were not relevant – not just to the occasion, but to the whole business of being alive. (Enright, 2007, p. 65)

It is clearly stated that Veronica feels lonely. She does not "want to be in that room" where the room is full of people who come for Charlie's burial. She feels lonely not because of Charlie's death, but nobody cares about her because all people pay attention to Charlie who was die. Therefore, she wants to be alone from the burial bustle.

From the statement above, it can also be identified that Veronica has mixed feelings in which her "feelings were not relevant", especially the mixed feelings of love-hate towards Charlie, in one occasion she said "I didn't care about Charlie, I hated Charlie" and even she "hoped he [Charlie] was heaving with maggots under that suit" (Enright, 2007, pp. 64-65). But in other occasion she said she "loved Charlie" with the "anxious love of a child" (Enright, 2007, p. 64). It also can be identified that Veronica has difficulty forming healthy relationship within Charlie with "anxious love of child".

As the lost child, Veronica also has difficulties with intimacy. It is proved with her relationship with her husband, Tom. As stated in the statement below:

What else can I do? We could not afford a divorce. Besides I do not want to leave him. I can not sleep with him, that is all. So my husband is waiting for me to sleep with him again, and I am waiting for something else. I am waiting for things to become clear. (Enright, 2007, p. 37)

From the statement above, Veronica is difficult to have sexual activity with her husband, Tom. It is proved with the statement "I can not sleep with him". She oppressed with the intimacy, because she is "waiting for something else" that is moment of the truth of Liam's death. She is "waiting for things to become clear" that is the finding why her brother, Liam, gets suicide. Besides, her "husband is waiting for me [Veronica] to sleep with him [Tom] again".

Meanwhile, from the statement "Am I the only woman in Ireland still at risk from polio myelitis? No one knows." (Enright, 2007, p. 8), which is an expression of Veronica's anger also can be known that Veronica is also a lost child of Hegarty dysfunctional family. In which, as the result of her loneliness, she may be seen to seek attention from her parents by her illness, "polio myelitis", an infectious disease that affects the central nervous system and can cause temporary or permanent paralysis. The seeking attention is shown by the statement "No one knows" which has meaning that she actually wants to seek attention from people around her.

Lost child drown their sorrows in alcohol or drug use, likewise with Veronica. She releases her stress with consuming whiskey, such as illustrated in the statement below:

Instead of turning left outside Mammy's, I turn right for the airport road. I don't think about where I am going, I think about the rain, the indicator, the drag of the rubber wiper against the glass. I think about nothing – there is nothing to think about. And then I think about a drink. Nothing messy. A fierce little naggin of whiskey, maybe, or gin. I float towards it in my Saab 9.3 – towards the idea of it, flowering in my mouth.
I am always thirsty when I leave that house – something to do with the unfairness of the place. (Enright, 2007, p. 26)

From the statement above, it can be known about Veronica's behavior when she is stressful, that is usually when there is a problem in the house she is "always thirsty" and she "leave that house" with her car "Saab 9.3" she wants to drink "a fierce little naggin of whiskey", a strong alcoholic drink made from malted grain, or "gin", which is an alcoholic drink made from grain and flavored with Juniper berries, and gin usually mixed with tonic water or fruit juice.

CONCLUSION

With the research that has been done, it can be concluded that family in Anne Enright's *The Gathering* is a dysfunctional family. To prove that Veronica's family is dysfunctional family, the analysis is based on the viewpoints of family.

Functionally, Veronica's childhood family is dysfunction because it has negation of functional family. It is proven that the family functions almost do not work properly. Structurally, Veronica's family is disturbed extended family. Veronica's life development is influenced by not only her nuclear family but also

influenced by her extended family (grandparents) and the relatives. Besides that, Veronica's parents especially her father educates his children with dysfunctional parenting styles, such as harsh parenting style that lead his children become disrespect to her and negligent parenting styles leads the family has the characteristics of dysfunctional family such as non-communication and secrecy.

However, the description of dysfunctional family is not the only thing that can be taken from the analysis. The result is much more than just a description. The deeper result of the analysis is the revelation of the impacts of dysfunctional family on Veronica's life.

From the second analysis, the impacts of the dysfunctional family are revealed. The impact of dysfunctional affective function and the unworked mother's role cause Veronica's mistrust is more prominent than her basic trust. In which, she cannot forgive her mother. The father's dysfunctional parenting style makes Veronica's initiative emasculated. On the other hand, her guilt grows in her-self and she feels inferior. Meanwhile, Veronica who grows up as an abusive child has difficulties with intimacy with her husband and the closeness relationship with Liam as alcoholic suicide brother makes her cannot concern to her little family with her husband and her daughters. It can also be concluded that the impact of dysfunctional family can makes Veronica becomes lost child who feels lonely, has mixed feelings of hate and love, and drown his sorrows in alcohol use. As one of daughters in a dysfunctional family, Veronica feels that she must give attention to her parents besides she must give the same concern to her own family. It can be concluded that she is a caretaker in the family.

SUGGESTION

Dysfunctional family has been mainly used to determine psychological condition of a family. The recent analysis just shows the concept of dysfunctional family that gives influence in a character's life. For those who are going to undergo analysis using the concept of dysfunctional family, it is wise to seek the impacts on some characters. The analysis of dysfunctional family is interesting when it is related to our reality. It is part of our life, because dysfunctional family happened in a family is different with another dysfunctional family. Every speech made by a character in a story contains psychology. Likewise with dysfunctional family, it is an experience of a character and it may become a story. It is down to the analyzer to find and elicit interesting matters from it.

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