



**THE ROLE OF A SINGLE FATHER IN DEVELOPING AMERICAN FAMILY VALUES  
REFLECTED IN “JERSEY GIRL” MOVIE BY KEVIN SMITH**

**A THESIS**

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## **ABSTRAK**

Keluarga merupakan suatu lembaga sosial yang terdiri dari beberapa individu yang berinteraksi satu sama lain dan memiliki peran sosial seperti suami, istri, adik, dan kakak. Di Amerika, terdapat berbagai tipe keluarga seperti *nuclear family*, *extended family*, dan keluarga orang tua tunggal. Hal ini dapat diteliti dalam film *Jersey Girl*. Untuk mendapatkan hasil analisis yang baik, digunakan dua metode penelitian yaitu metode penelitian dengan studi kepustakaan dan juga metode pendekatan secara historis dan eksponensial. Dalam film tersebut digambarkan dengan jelas kehidupan sebuah keluarga ayah tunggal di Amerika yang berusaha menjalankan perannya dalam mengembangkan nilai-nilai keluarga. Dan nilai kekeluargaan tersebut juga mempengaruhi hubungan antara anggota keluarga dan kondisi kehidupan sosial keluarga ayah tunggal di Amerika tersebut.

Kata kunci : keluarga, peran ayah tunggal, Amerika Serikat, nilai kekeluargaan.

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

## I.1. Background of the Study

In America, there are a lot of phenomena happened in society that can influence human life. One of the common phenomena that have been built by American society is family life. It is because family is the most significant thing in social life. Most American feels that they have meaning in life in their relationship within the family. It is a source of satisfaction that can last a life time. Nevertheless, it is still very important to pay attention to the main purpose of the family. To bring about the happiness of each family member is greatly needed to be able in developing family value which consists of family togetherness, stability, loyalty, how to love and to respect parents.

According to Brooks, “A 1990 Los Angeles Times survey finds that 80 percent of 1000 men and women, say that family and children, marriage and love, and financial security are more important than work, career, or leisure time” (1994:18). Two third describe the family and their love life as the most satisfying aspects of their lives. While they value children and family, men and woman say they have too little time and do not live up to their own standards. Over half the mothers and fathers believe they spend too little time with their children. Forty percent of fathers and 80 percent of mothers would quit their jobs to raise their children full time if they could afford to (Brooks, 1994: 18).

But life was not necessarily easy in the nineteenth century North America. Since life expectancy was shorter, parenting years longer, and loss of the mother in delivering baby more frequent than today, many families were disrupted by the death of spouse. “Family members however retained strong feelings of closeness, belonging, and interdependence that provided strength and comfort at times of trouble“(Brooks, 1994:12). Therefore, it causes a new family form into a single-parent family.

The numbers of American families headed by single parents are increasing. It is the fastest growing family form in America. No other family form increased as rapidly. In the 1970s, the number of single parent families increased by 89 percent. Single parent families accounted for 15,5 percent of all families in 1987. One demographer projects that in 1990, 26 percent of all children will live in a single parent family. (Strong & Vault, 1989:489)

The common type of American single parent is single mother, but today social values have changed that men are making more conscious choices about taking care of children. According to *An Encyclopedia of The Family in America*, researchers have only recently begun to chart the small, but growing, phenomenon of single male parenthood (2001: 847). According to U.S. Bureau of Census records, the number of children living with a single father tripled between 1970 and 1994. Some scholars suggest numerous causes for the growth in single-father-headed families. These causes include an increased number of divorced for the period, traditional gendered inequalities in income that left mothers at an economics disadvantages in raising their children (Hawes & Shores, 2001: 847).

Because of the phenomena above, single father families become one of noticeable feature in American family life and have been increasingly presented in the literary works such as novel, poem, and song and even in Hollywood movies. A real example of Hollywood movie that carries out single father phenomenon is Jersey Girl, a movie by Kevin Smith. This movie portrays how the life of a single father in a family and how he develops family value in his relationship with children.

In American family, the values consist of family togetherness, stability; loyalty, how to love and respect parents. In a single father family, that values have the important role in how a single father develops those factors and do his role in a family such as the breadwinner role for children satisfaction and how a single father develops his relationship with his children.

Therefore, the writer is interested in giving the title “The Role of Single Father in Developing American Family Value reflected in Jersey Girl Movie by Kevin Smith” for this thesis.

## **I.2. Scope of the Study**

In a discussion, the scope of the study is greatly needed. To limit the object of discussion, after watching Jersey Girl movie, the writer will focus in discussing about the role of single father in developing family value.

## **I.3. Purpose of the study**

Based on the title of this thesis, The Role of a Single Father in Developing Family Value Reflected in Jersey girl movie by Kevin Smith, the aims of the study are:

- 1) Describing the intrinsic aspects in Jersey Girl movie that consists of characters, setting, plot, and conflict.
- 2) Analyzing how the role of Ollie as a single father in developing family values

3)

## **I.4. Research Method**

### **I.4.1. Method of research**

In writing this thesis, the writer uses library research method. Library research method is method in which the writer gathered data by reading the script of the movie, look for the reference books that are connected to the research and browsing to the internet to get some information and articles related to the research.

### **I.4.2. Methods of approach**

Method of approach is a reference in looking at an object. In this research paper, the writer uses the exponential and psychological approach. In the study of Jersey Girl movie, the writer uses the exponential approach to analyze the intrinsic aspect of the movie. “We designate this method as the exponential approach because the inclusiveness of the term suggests at once the several meanings of motif, image, symbol, and archetype” (Gverin, 1992:197). In this case, the exponential approach means that the writer should find the implicit meaning in a literary work in the form of motifs, symbols, images, and the basic pattern. While in dealing with analyzing

cinematography of the movie, the writer uses the cinematographic elements.

On the other hand, to review the extrinsic aspect, the writer uses psychological approach to literature, especially social psychology. Endraswara in *Metode Penelitian Sastra* says that the psychology literature is the study of literature that sees the work as psychological activities. Roueck and Warren in *Gerungan in Social Psychology (1977:47)* say that social psychology is the science which studies the psychological aspects of human behavior is influenced by social interactions. Gerungan in his book *Social Psychology* says that the establishment of behavior does not occur by itself. Social interaction within the group or outside group can change the behavior or to form new behaviors. Other factors that also holds the role is the internal factors within the human person, interest in his attention to receive and process the influences that come from outside it. So, in the formation and behavior changes that is internal factors and external private individuals who hold the role (1977:158).

### **I.5. Research Paper Organization**

Research Paper organization is the stacking of document as follows

- Chapter I : An introduction that consists of five sub-chapters, covering the background, Scope of the Study, Aims of study, Methods and Approaches, and Research Organization.
- Chapter II : Synopsis of the movie
- Chapter III : Literary review that consists of the intrinsic elements such as themes, characters, plot, cinematography elements and extrinsic element in the movie.
- Chapter IV : The discussion of literary review connected with the movie. It analyzes the intrinsic and extrinsic of the movie
- Chapter V : Conclusion.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **SYNOPSIS OF THE MOVIE**

Oliver Trinke is a successful music publicist in a music industry. He is a workaholic man.

He spends all his day for working. He meets and falls in love with Gertrude Steiney who works as a book editor. Ollie said that his job is same with Gertrude's job because they both check the client's mistakes. Ollie only meets Gertrude at night because he spends all his day for working. Therefore they both love New York City because this city is never sleep. After that, they get married. After they have spent their life for almost a year in New York, Ollie went to New Jersey in his father's home with Gertrude. He introduced Gertrude to his father, Bart. Bart worked in local government and had a license to operate the street sweeper. After Gertrude has chatted with Bart, they went to the bar.

In Lamaze, one day in afternoon, Gertrude was waiting for Ollie who had worked for a whole day and she was complaining about Ollie busyness. She gave an explanation to Ollie that Ollie also should pay attention to her too, not always pay attention to the job. After that, Ollie was suddenly nervous because Gertrude will deliver baby. Ollie helps Gertrude when delivering baby in the birthing room. Ollie felt happy when the baby comes but unfortunately Gertrude dies in delivering baby. The nurse tried to explain what happened in childbirth that causes Gertrude dies but Ollie feel so difficult to accept this situation.

After funeral, Ollie decided to live in Bart's house with his baby in New Jersey. Pressed by the situation of lonely father, he did not care about his baby. All the fathering activities were done by Bart. Bart felt fine when he should accept Ollie to live in his house. One day, Bart went to work and he can not take care of Gertie so it was a must for Ollie in taking care of Gertie but Ollie was angry to Bart. Finally he was carrying his young Gertie when he worked in the office so that he got trouble in taking care of his young Gertie. He did not know how to change baby diaper and give the baby talc after change the diaper. While some people waits for Ollie to talk about Fresh Prince. Because the situation is confusing, he cannot control his emotion so suddenly he blows-up in an important press conference and made a fatal statement. It causes he lost his job and becoming blacklisted in his publicist career.

After he lost his job, he realized that what it means to be a dad. He promises to be the "best father in the world" to the young Gertie, and stays single. When Gertie was seven years old, Ollie always picked up Gertie after school. In daily life, Ollie taught the best behavior for Gertie, teach about the disciplinary to Gertie such as flushing the toilet after defecating. Ollie also prohibits Gertie to watch the dangerous movie that can influence her mind because she was still seven years old.

One day Ollie went to the video store with Gertie. He met the rental clerk, Maya. They became friends and she helped him to supersede his past life. In the evening, Maya came to Ollie's house. She invited Ollie to have a date with her. Then in a restaurant Ollie was interrogated by Maya about his sexuality. Maya invited him to have a sex and Ollie refused it before. But after Ollie is persuaded by Maya, finally he can do it. Gertie know what his father do and Gertie threat to rent all of movies in video store where Maya works.

After seven years, he called his old friend who works in music industry where he has ever worked. He was offered a chance to move back into the music industry, but he realizes that would mean moving back to New York. Gertie, who is now seven years old, makes it clear she did not want to go. In this case, she had conflicts with Ollie. She angry with him tries to convince him not to move but Ollie still is ambitious to decide working in his old office. Until one day, Gertie had a theatre performance where the day was the same with Ollie's interview in Music industry. Ollie

still left to the office to get interview, while he was waiting for the interview, he talked to someone who also wait for the interview and it made Ollie realized that having time with children is more important. Then Ollie tried so hard to come in the theater. He run and arrives in the play in time. It makes Gertie believe that his father has a good responsibility in her. Finally Ollie decided not to move to get his better job in music industry and stay along with his daughter who is more important for his life than becoming a workaholic father.

## CHAPTER III

### LITERARY REVIEW

#### III.1. Intrinsic Aspect

##### III.1.1. Narrative Elements

Elements of a literary work can be divided into two parts. The division is intrinsic and extrinsic elements. Generally, both elements are often used to study literature. Intrinsic element is the elements that build a literary work itself. These elements meant to mention only some of them, such as an event, story, plot, characterizations, themes, setting, storytelling standpoint, and others (Nurgiyantoro, 2009: 23).

##### III.1.1.1. Characters

According to Kennedy, “*A character is presumably an imagined person who inhabits a story*”. If the story seems “true of life”, generally it is found that its character act in a reasonably consistent manner, and that the author has provided them with motivation: sufficient reason to behave as they do. A character behaves in a sudden and unexpected way, seeming to deny what it has been told about his nature and personality (1979:42-43). There are two kinds of characters; these are a major and a minor character. “*A major character is human personalities that become familiar while a minor character is as a mere passive spectator or even as a character that arrives late upon the scene and then tries to piece together what happened*” (Kennedy, 1979: 18).

##### III.1.1.2. Setting

According to Abrams in Nurgiyantoro in *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi*, the setting refers to the sense of place, time relations, and social environment where the occurrence of the events described (2009: 216). Setting elements can be divided into three main elements that are place, time, and social.

##### III.1.1.2.1 Setting of Place

Setting of place refers to the location where the events recounted in a literary work. It can be placed with certain names or certain initials. Settings of place in literary works include a variety of locations. It will move from one place to another plot of line and character development (2009:227).



#### **III.1.1.4.2. External Conflict**

External conflict is a conflict between characters with something outside of him selves, perhaps with the natural environment or with the human environment. For example the conflict caused by the presence of human contact or problems appearing as a result of human relationships (Nurgiyantoro, 2009 : 124 ).

#### **III.1.2. Cinematographic Elements**

Himawan Pratista (2008:89) in *Memahami Film*, says that cinematography includes cinematographer activity toward a camera and movie stock. A movie-maker is not only recording a scene, but he also has to control and regulate how the scene is taken, such as distance, angle, and so on.

##### **III.1.2.1. Distance**

In a cinematographic element, the distance is the dimension of the camera distance to the object in the frame. Generally, objects in the movie are human, so technically the distance is measured using a human scale. The dimensions of the camera distance to the object can be classified into seven (Pratista, 2008:105):

##### **III.1.2.1.1. Extreme Long Shot**



Extreme long shot is the most distant picture taking from the object. Human physical is almost disappearing. This technique is generally to describe a very distant object or a broad view of the surrounding around the character (Pratista, 2008:105).

##### **III.1.2.1.2. Long Shot**



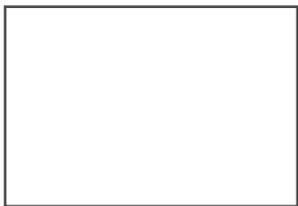
In long shot, the character body has seemed to clear but the broad view of surrounding around the character is still dominant. Long shots are often used as an establishing shot (Pratista, 2008:105) .

##### **III.1.2.1.3. Medium Long Shot**



Medium long shot shows the character body across the legs above or below the knees. It is large enough to show the physical setting in which the action is taking place, yet it is close enough to show facial expression. The character body and the environment are relatively balanced (Pratista, 2008:105).

**III.1.2.1.4. Medium Shot**



Medium shot show character's upper-body, arms, and head. Gesture and facial expression began to appear. Human figures began to dominant in the frame (Pratista, 2008:105).

**III.1.2.1.5. Medium close-up**



At this distance shows the characters from the chest upwards. A character dominates the frame and background is no longer dominant. Normal conversation scene usually uses a medium close-up distance (Pratista, 2008:105).

**III.1.2.1.6 Close-up**



Generally shows a character's face and shoulders. It is close enough to show facial expression clearly and gestures are clearly detailed. Close ups are usually used for a more intimate dialogue scenes. Close up also show great detail of an object or objects (Pratista,

2008:105).

### **III.1.2.1.7 Extreme Close-up**



Extreme close-up shows only a part of a character's face. It fills the screen with the details of a subject such as, ears, eyes, nose, and etc (Pratista,2008:106).

### **III.1.2.2. Angle**

In general, the camera angle can be divided into three namely high angle, straight on angle, and low angle (Pratista, 2008:106).

#### **III.1.2.2.1. High Angle**



The camera is placed above eye level, looking downward. A high angle shot can make a character look smaller, younger, weak, confused, or more childlike. High angle is also usually used to show the broad panorama and landscape of a region(Pratista, 2008:106).

#### **III.1.2.2.2. Straight on angle**



The camera shows the characters in the frame straightly (Pratista, 2008:106).

### **III.1.2.2.3. Low Angle**



The camera is placed below eye level, looking upward. A low angle shot can make a character look bigger, stronger, or nobler. It also gives the impression of height (Pratista, 2008:107).

### **III.1.2.3. Sounds**

#### **III.1.2.3.1 Dialogue**

Dialogue is one of the voices in the movie. Dialogue in movie is used since the technology has been developing. Dialogue in movie is the language of verbal communication used by all the characters inside and outside of the movie's story (narrative) and not separated from the language speaking and is strongly influenced by the accent. This is one of the most important elements in shaping the mood of a movie. (Pratista, 2008:149).

#### **III.1.2.3.2. Music**

Music is one important element in strengthening the moods, nuances, and the atmosphere in a movie. Music can be classified into two; song and music illustrations. Music illustration is background music that accompanies the action as long as the story goes. While song forms the character and mood in a movie. Like music illustration, a movie also has a theme song. A theme song with its lyrics is also often used to support the mood of the scene, such as sad, happy, tense, and so on (Pratista, 2008:156).

### **III.1.2.4. Mise-en-Scene**

Mise-en-scene is the elements that lie in front of the camera where the images will be taken in a movie production. Mise-en-scene consists of four main aspects of setting, costume and make up, lighting and acting. But in analyzing this movie, the writer only uses make up and lighting (Pratista, 2008:61).

#### **III.1.2.4.1. Costume and make up**

Costume is the things that are worn by the players with all the accessories. In a movie, costume has a function based on the context of the narrative. Costume has a function as a space and time indicator, social status and characters personality (Pratista, 2008:71).

Generally, make up has two functions. These are to show the age and to describe the non-human faces. Make up is usually used because the player's face is not as expected as in the story of the movie. In a movie production, an actor or actress acts as a character in younger or older age (2008:74).

#### **III.1.2.4.2. Lighting**

Lighting in a movie can be classified into three elements. These are the quality, direction, and source of the light color. The quality of lighting refers to the size of the intensity of lighting. Hard light tends to produce a clear image of objects as well and soft light tends to spread the light so it produces a thin shadow. While lighting direction can be divided into five parts. They are Frontal Lighting, Side Lighting, Back Lighting, Under Lighting and Top Lighting.

## **III.2. Extrinsic Aspect**

### **III.2.1. American Family Values**

Lamanna and Riedmann argues that Family values (familism) permeate American culture. These values, such as family togetherness, stability, and loyalty, focus on the family group as a whole (1988:5)

#### **III.2.1.1. Togetherness**

As Lamanna points out that “Many of us have an image of the ideal family relationship in which family members spend considerable time together and enjoy each other’s company. The time that individual family members spend away from one another at work, at school, or at play are secondary importance” (1988:5). Togetherness, in other words, represents an important part of family life. Family is better if they do things together. Parents and other family members should develop togetherness and make it a habit to do things in daily life.

#### **III.2.1.2. Stability**

Despite the demands for societal change that came out of the late 1960s, most American is apprehensive about change. Journalists have made much of the nostalgia syndrome in which contemporary Americans yearn for the “good old days”. Lamanne and Riedmann point out that “*On a more personal level we also resist change. For many of us, the family is an important source of stability and we are disturbed when it is disrupted*” (1988:5). Stability in a family also means the quality of being firm and steadfast in doing the functions of family.

#### **III.2.1.3. Loyalty**

Like stability and togetherness, loyalty is an American value. Lamanne and Riedmann argues that “The group most deserving of our loyalty, we believe, is our family. Most of us who are married today have vowed publicly to stay with the partners as long as we live” (1988:8). It is expected that partners, parents, children, and often even more distant relatives to remain loyal to the family unit. The solidarity or closeness between the generations in a family is also very important in a loyalty.

### **III.2.2. The Role of Father as a Single Parent**

Role theory appears to be conceptually more justifiable as an overall explanation of marital choice than any of the previous individualistic explanation. Eshleman argues that “one perception of role refers to a set social of expectation appropriate to a given status: husband, wife,

male, female, single, and the like.”(1994:275). These expectations, implicit or explicit, have been internalized and serve to direct and influence personal behavior as well as the behavior desired in a prospective marriage partner (1994:275).

With roles, the focus of attention is on behaviors and attitudes appropriate to situations, irrespective of the individual, whereas with personality needs, the focus is on behaviors and attitudes that are characteristic of the individual, irrespective of the situation. Roles focus on definition, meanings, and social expectation (Eshleman, 1994:275).

According to Barbara Risman, the role of father as single parent has new option to share child care in taking care of children. While According to Lamanna and Riedmann in the book *Marriage and Families*, point out that the role of family breadwinner is no longer reserved for husband or father.

According to Barbara Risman who surveyed about the role of father as a single parent argues that “Most men felt comfortable and competent as single parents, regardless of the reason for custody or their financial status.”(1994:226). This was true even though four out of five single fathers had no outside housekeeping help, either paid or volunteer. These men felt very close to and very affectionate toward their children. There were glad to be fathers, and had little trouble fulfilling in taking care of children in single parenthood (Eshleman, 1994:226).

In a number of ways, fathers who maintain families alone are better situated than their female counterparts. Single-parent fathers typically have higher level education, are in labor force, and as shown earlier, are well situated economically. Many fathers were lonely and missed a wife’s companionship. However, the presence of children helped the fathers adjust to being single (Eshleman, 1994:226).

On the other hand, according to Torri Minton in survey of 600 Bay Area Parents Feeling Frustrated in 1991, the result of San Francisco chronicle poll on parenting is most in need of help for father is in child care. It is 31 % father more in need of help (Brooks, 1994:20).

As fathers, they need to pay attention that their children need unconditional love and attention. It is fine for them to ask someone they trust to take part in child’s life. In this way, children of single father do not have to suffer due to the lack of a parent. If a father needs to be away from home for a time, or is busy, there is others around to look after the children. to take on the non-traditional role.

Americans believe that father as a family breadwinner. According to Lamanna and Riedmann, the role of family breadwinner is no longer reserved for husband or father. About half of all American men work in blue collar occupations. The blue collar husband’s inherent lack of satisfaction with and achievement in his job also has an effect on the family. No matter how hard or how well he works, he will probably working in the same position years later. He views his family as real life and finds meaning in his labor only insofar as it represents sacrifice for the benefit of his family (Lamanna and Riedmann, 1988:350-351).

Brook argues that the impact of men’s work on family life is primarily studied in term of the effects of unemployment on the family, and the effects of the nature of father’s work on family values.

So, the nature and extent of father's work has a wide-ranging influence on family life and children. When fathers find their work highly absorbing and satisfying, they feel conflict between work and family commitments. When their work is highly stressful, they find it difficult to have the energy to establish stable, happy homes (Brooks.1994:224).

As a single father, he must work to fulfill the daily needs and many of them want to. The difficulty they face is in finding the right combination of circumstances to make it possible to work without sacrificing children and depends not only on their own choices but on those of the society in which he lives and the places they work. It needs the relatives cared for the children of working single father. According to Torri Minton in survey of 600 Bay Area Parents Feeling Frustrated in 1991, the result of San Francisco chronicle poll on parenting is 74 percent fathers sacrifice their career goals, such as turning down with higher pay or a promotion to a higher position for the sake of spending more time with children (Brooks, 1994:20).

When men work, their job influences many aspects of family life indirectly and directly. The indirect effects of father's work are seen , for example father-absent home were those in which fathers were gone for periods of time because of work in remote areas or because of unusual shifts. While father's work directly influences the social status or social class of their family, which in turn affect children. Father's job classification, professional business, skilled or unskilled labor is the major determinant of the family's social status. So the father's work has a wide-ranging influence on family life and children (Brooks, 1994:224-225).