

LOVE IN ILANA TAN'S NOVEL *AUTUMN IN PARIS*

Rizki Nurhidayah Sitompul, M. Manugerren, Purwarno

English Department, Faculty of Literature
Universitas Islam Sumatera Utara (UISU), Medan
Email: rizkynur2806@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The research is concerned with types of love faced by Tara Dupont, the main character of the novel *Autumn in Paris*, written by Ilana Tan. The types of love: friendship, infatuated love, romantic love and consummate love are the main focus of the study. The objective is to find out how Tara Dupont implements the types of love in relationship with people around her. One of the theories used in the research is Robert Sternberg's Triangular Theory of Love which states that love has three components: intimacy, passion and commitment and these three components are to be applied to obtain or run real love. Qualitative descriptive method is applied for the whole analysis. The finding shows that types of love are found in the novel *Autumn in Paris*. Friendship appears in a relationship between Tara, Sebastien and Tatsuya. Romantic love and infatuated love are the dominant types of love and consummate love is the rarest.

Keywords: love, friendship, infatuated love, romantic love, consummate love

1. Introduction

Ilana Tan is an Indonesian novelist known for her writing four season tetra logy, each of which is presented with stories with a different background. Ilana Tan's novel is unique as the character in one novel is related to another. She published her first novel *Summer in Seoul* along with *Autumn in Paris*. Her third novel was *Winter in Tokyo* and her fourth novel is *Spring in London*. Each novel has settings in big cities of the world: Seoul, Paris, Tokyo and London. Several novels from four season of tetra logy and other novel have been filmed such as *Sunshine Becomes You* first aired in 2015. The film took pictures in New York, United States in July 2015 and *Winter in Tokyo*, in 2016.

As the core study goes to love, it is to be known that love may be understood as part of the survival instinct, a function to keep human beings together against menaces and to facilitate the continuation of the species (Fisher: 2005). Love also develops in line with social context meaning that individual and social environment cannot be separated in any social relationship. This view is then supported by Erikson in Abuhassan and Azmi (2019) who state that it is difficult to understand the individual away from his or her social sphere; individual and society are intricately woven, dynamically related in a continual change.

Autumn in Paris is not just a novel that tells about the glamorous town of Paris. *Autumn in Paris* tells about a girl who loves Paris and autumn. Tara Dupont or usually called Victoria—Ma Cherie by her father is a mixed-blooded Indonesian-French girl. She is known as a cheerful, unique, attractive girl and has a sweet voice. She thinks that she already has everything in her life until she meets Tatsuya Fujisawa who is

unpredictable and always arouses her curiosity from the start. Tatsuya Fujisawa hates Paris and autumn. He comes to Paris to look for someone who destroys his life. But he never expects to be fascinated by Tara Dupont, a fussy girl. Tara and Tatsuya are totally unaware of the thread that connects them to the past, the secret that destroys all love, hopes, feelings, and belief. When the truth is revealed, it also reveals the meaning of despair, and the meaning of helplessness.

Autumn in Paris is about a love story under the sky of Paris; about the hope that arises in the midst of despair, the dream that survives between doubts, and about love that gives reasons to survive. Love is the significant theme of the novel *Autumn in Paris*. This theme is a universal subject. There is no even a single individual on earth who does not know or get in touch with love. Love is a wildly misunderstood concept although highly desirable of the heart, weakening the brain, causing eyes to sparkle, cheeks to glow, blood pressure to rise and the lips to pucker to some. Love is friendship set on fire, for others maybe love is a luck. One has to go all the way to find it. Love is patient, love is kind. It has no envy, nor it boasts itself and it is never proud. Love can occur between two or more individuals. It bonds them and connects them in a unified link of trust, intimacy, and interdependence.

The theory of Robert J. Sternberg's 'A Triangular Theory of Love' is applied here to analyse the kinds of Love in Ilana Tan's Novel *Autumn in Paris*. The triangular theory of love explains love in an interpersonal relationship based on the three different scales: intimacy, passion and commitment.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Love

Love is one of the most difficult questions for mankind. Centuries have passed by, relationship has bloomed and so has love.

According to Rubin (1970: 265) love is generally regarded as deepest and most meaningful of sentiments. It has occupied a preminent position in the art and literature of every age and it is presumably experienced, at least occasionally, by the vast majority of people.

In line with the above illustration on love, Nevid (2012: 312) states that a relationship may be characterized in terms of three elements, which are passions, intimacy, and commitment. This concept is then supported by Stenberg (1998) stating that as three sides of a triangle love, passion is positioned at the base, while intimacy is to the right and commitment is to the left. Stenberg then states that the three aspects can combine to characterize seven conceptualization of love relationship.

Those three love components differ with respect to a number of properties including stability, conscious controllability and experimental salience. For example, the element of intimacy and decision/commitment are usually quite stable in close relationship once they occur and become characteristic of a relationship, they tend to endure, whereas passion tends to be less stable and predictable.

In addition, whereas people possess a great deal of conscious control over the commitment that they make to relationship and possess at least some degree of control over their feeling of intimacy, they actually have very little conscious control over the amount of passion that they experience for their partners. The three components also differ in terms of their experiential salience. Specifically, an individual is usually quite aware of the passion component, but awareness of the intimacy and decision/commitment components can be extremely variable. That is, a person may

experience feelings of intimacy without explicitly being aware of those feelings or even being able to identify what he or she is feeling. Similarly, a person might not consciously realise the full extent of his or her commitment to the relationship and the partner.

2.2 Kinds of Love

Love has three components: (a) *intimacy*, which encompasses the feelings of closeness, connectedness, and bond one experiences in loving relationships; (b) *passion*, which encompasses the drives that lead to romance, physical attraction, and sexual consummation; and (c) *decision/commitment*, which encompasses, in the short term, the decision that one loves another, and in the long term, the commitment to maintain that love.

The amount of love one experiences depends on the absolute strength of these three components, and the kind of love one experiences depends on their strengths relative to each other. The three components interact with each other and with the actions that they produce and that produce them so as to form a number of different kinds of loving experiences.

The triangular theory of love subsumes certain other theories and can account for a number of empirical findings in the research literature, as well as for a number of experiences with which many are familiar firsthand. It is proposed that the triangular theory provides a rather comprehensive basis for understanding many aspects of the love that underlies close relationships (Stenberg: 1986)

The components of love and their interrelationships can better be understood by considering the kinds of love to which they may give rise in different combinations. There are eight possible subsets of the various components of love.

Triangular theory of love emphasizes on expressing intimacy, passion and commitment through action in order to maximize happiness. Sternberg pictures love as a triangle, as the three components are the vertices of the triangle and he suggests that the larger the person's area of the triangle, the greater the amount of love can be experienced. (Sternberg, 1986). All three components are also associated with satisfaction in relationships and vary from time and stage of relationship development. Below are types of love proposed by Sternberg (2006).

2.3 Friendship

Liking results when one experiences only the intimacy component of love in the absence of passion and decision/commitment. The term *liking* is used here in a nontrivial sense, not merely to describe the feelings one has toward casual acquaintances and passers-by in one's life. Rather, it refers to the set of feelings one experiences in relationships that can truly be characterized as friendships. One feels closeness, bond, and warmth toward the other, without feelings of intense passion or long-term commitment. Stated in another way, one feels emotionally close to the friend, but the friend does not "turn one on," nor does the friend arouse the thought that "one loves the friend" or that one plans to love the friend for the rest of one's life.

It is possible for friendships to have elements of passionate arousal or long-term commitment, but in such cases, the friendship goes beyond mere liking and is best classified in one of the categories below.

A test that can distinguish mere liking from love that goes beyond liking is the absence test. If a typical friend whom one likes goes away, even for an extended period

of time, one may miss the friend, but one does not tend to dwell on the loss. One can pick up the friendship some years later, often in a different form, without even having thought much about the friendship during the intervening years.

2.4 Infatuated Love

Infatuated love is "love at first sight." Infatuated love, or simply, infatuation, results from the experiencing of passionate arousal in the absence of the intimacy and decision/commitment components of love. This is considered "puppy love" or relationships that have not become serious yet. Infatuations are usually rather easy to spot, although they tend to be somewhat easier for others to spot than for the individual who is experiencing the infatuation.

Infatuations can arise almost instantaneously and dissipate as quickly under the right circumstances. They tend to be characterized by a high degree of physiological arousal, manifested in somatic symptoms such as increased heartbeat or even palpitations of the heart, increased hormonal secretions, and so on.

Romantic relationships often starts out as infatuated love and becomes romantic love as intimacy develops over time. Without developing intimacy or commitment, infatuated love may disappear suddenly.

2.5 Romantic Love

Romantic Love is only dominated by desire and closeness without commitment. For example, love the location between two individuals who could end when both are not in the same location or environment.

This kind of love derives from a combination of the intimacy and passion components of love. In essence, it is with an added element, namely, the arousal brought about by physical attraction and its concomitants.

According to this view, then, romantic lovers are not only drawn physically to each other but are also bonded emotionally. This view of romantic love seems to be similar to that found in classic works of literature, such as *Romeo and Juliet*. This view of romantic love differs, however, from that of Hatfield and Walster (1981), who argue that romantic love does not differ from infatuation.

2.6 Consummate Love

Consummate love is the complete form of love, representing an ideal relationship which people strive towards. Of the eight varieties of love, consummate love is theorized to be that love associated with the "perfect couple". According to Stenberg, these couple will continue to have a great fifteen years or more into the relationship, they cannot imagine themselves happier over the long-term with anyone else; they overcome their few difficulties gracefully, and each delight in the relationship with one other.

However, Stenberg cautions that maintaining a consummate love may be even harder than achieving it. Consummate, or complete love results from the full combination of the three components. It is a kind of love towards which many of us strive, especially in romantic relationships. Attaining consummate love can be analogous in at least one respect to meeting one's target in a weight-reduction program: Reaching the goal is often easier than maintaining it. The attainment of consummate love is no guarantee that it will last. Indeed, its loss is sometimes analogous to the gain

of weight after a weight-reduction program: One is often not aware of the loss of the goal until it is far gone.

Stenberg stresses the importance of translating the components of love into action. “Without expression, even the greatest of loves can die.” Thus, consummate love may not be permanent. If passion is lost over time, it may change into companionate love. Consummate love is the most satisfying kind of adult relation because it combines all pieces of the triangle into this one type of love. It’s the ideal kind of relationship. These kinds of relationship can be found over long periods of time or idealistic relationship found in movies.

3. Research Method

Research is a logical and systematic search for new and useful information on a particular topic. It is an investigation of finding solution to scientific and social problems through objectives and systematic analysis. The method used is qualitative description. Qualitative description is a label used in qualitative research for studies which are descriptive in nature, particularly for examining social phenomena. . Qualitative description is a widely cited research tradition and has been identified as important and appropriate for research questions focused on discovering the who, what, and where of events or experiences and gaining insights from informants regarding a poorly understood phenomenon. It is also the label of choice when a straight description of a phenomenon is desired or information is sought to develop and refine questionnaires or interventions

The research design of this study is conducted by applying content analysis proposed by Moleong (2017). Content analysis is concerned with the classification, organization, and comparison of the content of a document or communication. In this study the primary resources of data are taken from the original novel *Autumn in Paris* by Ilana Tan. As the study goes to the significant theme of the novel, love, the major sources of data are directly taken from the lines of novel through intensive observation. To complete the study some other novels and references related to the subject of this research are also taken.

4. Result and Discussion

The focus of this research is concerned with friendship, infatuated love, romantic love and consummate love. Each is fully illustrated below.

4.1 Friendship

The term *liking* refers to the set of feelings one experiences in relationships that can truly be characterized as friendship. One feels closeness, bond, and warmth toward the other, without feelings of intense passion or long-term commitment.

In the storyline of *Autumn in Paris*, Ilana Tan describes the relationship between Tara and Fujisawa Tatsuya. Sebastien suddenly cancels his scheduled for having lunch with Tara because Juliette calls him. Just when Tara wants to go home, she meets Tatsuya in the same restaurant. Tara is glad that Tatsuya still remembers her and offers her to have lunch together. They talk a lot about Tatsuya who has just sent his letter about meeting someone at the airport where Tara works. Tara says that Tatsuya has a decent smile that makes everyone happy also. Such a smile open the door for a good friendship.

“...instead they talked about something else during lunch and Tara felt that Tatsuya Fujisawa was a pleasant person. Talking with him seemed to chat with such an old friends. They never run out of topic. (Tan, 2007: 41)

The quotation above states that friendship is there between Tara and Tatsuya. Tatsuya always feels so warm and calm everytime Tara is near to him. Ilana Tan also describes that friendship between both of them grows stronger when Tara offers herself to accompany Tatsuya to go to Musée Rodin. Tara rarely goes to Museum. They are already in the Museum for more than two hours, but Tara is patient enough to accompany Tatsuya. After lunch, Tara brings him around the city of Paris, Jardin du Luxembourg, and shows him some interesting places. Tatsuya realises that Tara is an expressive girl. In this storyline, Tatsuya describes that he likes her everytime Tara talks about everything. The components of intimacy, which are warmness and closeness appear in this storyline.

“Tatsuya shook his head. He just realized that he was happy to hear her babbling. He likes listening to Tara's voice. As if understanding what Tatsuya feels, Tara keeps on babbling.” (Tan, 2007: 54)

Here it is clearly seen that there is a type of chemistry between them. Tatsuya seems to be enjoying with the company of Tara and Tara also feels convenient with Tatsuya. Their friendship, a true relationship, begins to grow stronger. There is love in their friendship; love that could make a bond between them.

4.2 Infatuated Love

Infatuated love is "love at first sight." Infatuated love, or simply, infatuation, results from the experiencing of passionate arousal in the absence of the intimacy and decision/commitment components of love. Infatuations can arise almost instantaneously and dissipate as quickly under the right circumstances.

Sebastien introduces his friend, Fujisawa Tatsuya from Tokyo, Japan, to her friend, Tara Dupont. Tara who is still upset with Seabstien, who keeps in breaking his promise to pick her up at the airport is froced to smile and shake hands with Tatsuya.

“Nice to meet you, Tara.” Tara's eyebrows rise slightly. Correction, Tatsuya Fujisawa's score had just risen to eight. She likes the way he calls her name. Now the Japanese man who is standing before her calls out to her in a way that make her feel comfortable.” (Tan, 2007: 22)

The quotation above shows that Tara starts to like the way Fujisawa Tatsuya calls her name. French people pronounce the letter R in a different way from Indonesian people. So far, only her family in Indonesia can say her name correctly and now Tatsuya calls her name correctly. This meeting makes Tara curious about him.

Sebastien offers Tatsuya to have a dinner with them and Tatsuya accepts the offer gladly. Tara smiles sarcastically but then she accepts Tatsuya more and more after finding out that Tatsuya is not picky about food. Tare likes this attitude.

Tatsuya feels the love at the first sight with a France girl that he has just met at the airport. This is ian infatuated love because there is only one component, passion. Tatsuya likes the French girl because of the physical form.

Tara asks Tatsuya if he has a plan in the next weekend. Tatsuya says that he wants to walk around the city of Paris. Tatsuya has been to Paris for numerous times but never has a chance to look around. He asks Tara whether she wants to be his personal tour guide. Tara accepts the request gladly.

“Tara smiles. “No problem.” She did not mind accompanying Tatsuya. She felt comfortable and happy with that man. Plus, Tara was very curious about Tatsuya. She wanted to know more, wanted to find the answer to questions that had bothered her since their first meeting.”(Tan, 2007: 42)

The quotation above shows that Tatsuya and Tara’s relationship in love begins to grow but still not in the serious manner because in her deepest heart, Tara is still thinking about her bestfriend, Sebastien and thinks that Tatsuya Fujisawa is her escape route. Tara states that she only has a high curiosity towards Fujisawa Tatsuya. Tara still is waiting for Sebastien to come back from Nice.

4.3 Romantic Love

Romantic love is only dominated by desire and closeness without commitment. For example, the location between two individuals who could end when both are not in the same location or environment.

This kind of love derives from a combination of intimacy and passion components of love. In essence, the arousal is brought about by physical attraction and its concomitants. According to this view, romantic lovers are not only drawn physically to each other but are also bonded emotionally.

Today Tatsuya invites Tara to have a dinner at his house. Tara is surprised to learn that Tatsuya can cook. They both sit in a long sofa looking out of the window. They sit and eat together while looking at the Seine River. Tara then looks at a photos of a young woman in the desk and asks him who she is. Tatsuya finally tells Tara everything about her mother.

Tatsuya felt that his chest was lighter now. He’s much better now. “ Why does that girl’s smile make me feel that way?” Suddenly he wanted to tell everything to Tara, hoping that he could be more relieved, hoping the burden in his chest was not heavy anymore. (Tan, 2007: 79)

The quotation above shows that Tatsuya tries to opens his heart towards Tara Dupont by telling her about his mother, his trauma and why he hates Paris and Autumn all this time. Having Tara Dupont by his side makes him feel better, and calm. There are not only closeness and warmth, but the bond between them strongly grows now.

All of sudden, Paris looked much more beautiful to him. Falling leaves was no longer tragic to him. Tatsuya took a deep breath, as if he wanted to get rid of the remaining problem that was blocking his chest. At the time like this, the first person that came to his mind was a girl who was like a sedative for him. Tara Dupont. (Tan , 2007: 103)

The quotation above shows that Tatsuya finally opens his whole heart to Tara Dupont. Tatsuya feels happy and the first person he isthinking about is Tara Dupont. Love will come if when one feels happy, and Tatsuya is all the time thinking of her.

Tatsuya realizes that there is something special with the girl. He feels a loss when she does not see her. This is a sign of falling in love.

4.4 Consummate Love

Consummate love is the complete form of love, representing an ideal relationship which people strive towards. Of the eight varieties of love, consummate love is theorized to be that love associated with the "perfect couple". These couple will continue to have a great fifteen years or more into the relationship and they cannot imagine themselves happier over the long-term with anyone else and then they overcome their few difficulties gracefully, and each feels delighted in the relationship.

Jean-Daniel leans his back on the chair and stares at the letter in his hand. His face is pale. Tatsuyas asks him how Jean-Daniel feels. Tatsuya wants to know whether Jean-Daniel is angry or sad, confused or shocked. Tatsuya looks into those eyes and finds no anger there. Now he could trust Jean-Daniel.

Tatsuya forced his smile. "I don't blame you, Monsieur. After all, my mother finally married Kenichi Fujisawa, my father. My father was a good person. He accepted my my mother as she was and always considered me his own biological son. "There is nothing to be sorry about." (Tan, 2007: 99)

The quotation above shows that Tatsuya tells Jean-Daniel that he is his biological son by her mother, but he never blames Jean-Daniel for not taking responsibility because her mother has already found someone who really loves her mother unconditionally. The quotation above also shows that Tatsuya's father has a consummate love because he does not only loves Sanae, Tatsuya's mother, but accepts her and Tatsuya even though Tatsuya is not his biological son. Tatsuya's father also has a commitment and has a long period relationship with Sanae. That also proves that Tatsuya's father has a consummate love in his relationship.

5. Conclusion

The dominant issue found in the novel of *Autumn in Paris* is about love in the forms of friendship, infatuated love, romantic love, and consummate love. The settings in the novel are in Paris, France during Autumn; and from the analysis above, it is found that love is a category of its own on the list of maintenance behaviours, but the participants also note that love affects other aspects of their relationship.

There is friendship between Tara and Tatsuya. When Tara becomes Tatsuya's personal tour guide, Tatsuya admits that as a friend, Tara is very expressive and talkative. He feels pleasant everytime Tara talks about everything and he likes to hear that. He thinks that Tara can be a good friend before he knows that he tottaly falls in love with her.

Autumn in Paris pictures different kinds of love. Apart from Tara's one true romantic love for Tatsuya, there is her loving friendship for Sebastien. In the prologue and some chapters, Ilana Tan describes that Tara has a feeling towards her childhood friend, Sebastien. Tara indeed feels jealous when Sebastien talks about someone he has just met. But in the end Tara states that that kind of feeling is not in a romantic way, but in friendship. In fact, she finally realises that she is in love with Tatsuya.

Infatuated love is found in a relationship between Tatsuya and Tara. They feel they are getting closer and closer by time and each of them feels a loss when not seeing the partner. They find harmony in their togetherness.

romantic love is found between Tatsuya and Tara. Tatsuya shows his love to Tara from the way he always pays his attention on her such as knowing what Tara likes to eat, where she likes to go or where Tara usually goes everytime when she feels frustated. While Tara shows her love to Tatsuya by always be there for him, comforting him and turning Tatsuya's days into happiness while in Paris.

This storyline can also be is found in every human's life. These four kinds of love are always there. Love is something unavoidable in human relationship. Some of them find it as friendship, having intimacy component. But with passion, that friendship turns into romantic love.

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