

PROTAGONIST'S LOYALTY IN SIDNEY SHELDON'S NOVEL *TELL ME YOUR DREAMS*

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to analyze the kinds of protagonist's loyalty in Sidney Sheldon's novel *Tell Me Your Dreams*. The theory applied in this research is the one proposed by Fletcher, in which it is stated that loyalty emerges when someone has a feeling to protect something. The data are taken from the novel by using descriptive analysis method. The method used is qualitative. The results show that there are two kinds of protagonist's loyalty found in the novel. They are loyalty to his mother and loyalty to his friend. Loyalty or being loyal to his mother is shown by the protagonist by a commitment he makes as a deal with his allegiance to save her mother; meanwhile, being loyal to his friend is shown by the protagonist by fulfilling his commitment to help his friend in trouble. Being a loyal person will give the person positive effect in family, in workplace or in society. He will be a trustworthy person and a place for someone to lean on.

Keywords: allegiance, commitment, loyalty, protagonist, sacrifice

1. Introduction

Loyalty means being loyal to someone. Loyalty emerges when someone has a feeling to protect something. Loyalty (Fletcher, 1993) generates interest partiality identification with the object of one's loyalty rather than with its competitors. It means that loyalty is the quality of being faithful to someone affectionately. Loyalty becomes one of theme in many novels. It usually is portrayed by the characters in the novel such as the protagonist. *Tell Me Your Dreams* written by Sidney Seldon also has loyalty as the theme of the story. The protagonist's is David Singer. David Singer is a young lawyer. He is thirty years old. He is a talented and brilliant young lawyer. David works at the international firm of Kincaid, Turner, Rose and Ripley. It is one of the most prestigious law firms in the world. David is one of the top young lawyers who gets the promise of a partnership at the law firm. The prize is getting a big pay check or salary and partial profit of the company. He will also get some exclusive work facilities. David has married Sandra. They have a baby. David as corporate lawyer is determined to get a partnership at Kincaid's law firm. David resolves for a future home with his wife and her unborn child. While David Singer will be fighting to win a partnership for the future of his little family, he will be given a test of his loyal to a friend who saves his mother's life. It is to decide if he has loyalty.

This study reveals loyalty portrayed by the protagonist in the novel *Tell Me Your Dreams* written by Sidney Sheldon. The focuses of this study are to reveal the kinds of

loyalty portrayed by the protagonist. This is interesting because being loyal not only in a fiction but also in real life is very important for someone loved. Loyalty is common manner in many fields of life such as at work. Loyalty can give a positive effect feedback to the one who is loyal.

2. Literature Review

Loyalty is of being loyal. Being loyal means giving or showing firm and constant support to a person, community or even institution. Royce (1908) states that loyalty is the willing and practical and thorough going devotion of a person to a cause. Bertens (2000: 142) states that loyalty is moral value but it must be applied with other, humanity values for general, for example, love of husband and wife.

Kleinig (2017) argues that the primary subjects of loyalty tend to be individual persons. However, loyalty is not restricted to the subjects. The primary subjects also tend to be persons, personal collective, or quasi-persons such as organizations or social groups. Konvits, 1973: 108) claims that anything to which one's heart can become attached or devoted may also become the object of loyalty such as principles, causes, brands, ideas, ideals and ideologies.

Zermatten and Sonntag (2015: 11) describe that the phenomenon of loyalty has always been fundamentally important for the proper functioning of social relations. In contrast to other behavioural categories – trust or obedience – the modern conception of loyalty is characterized by an inner unity of common, fundamental moral maxims, themselves directed by shared, national interests, all expressed in behaviour toward a person, group, or institution.

Ladd (2013) argues that the object of loyalty is ordinarily taken to be a person or group of persons and that is conceptually impossible to be a loyal to people in general (to humanity) or to general principle, such as justice or democracy. It is impossible to be loyal to an opinion or belief theoretically, according to the concept that Ladd has advanced. Loyalty is stimulated the involvements relating to a person's emotional by another certain person having specific characteristic.

Schulz (2009: 118) states that the existence of loyalty depends on (a) beliefs about the reliable actualization of possible future goods, and (b) hope that they will obtain. Loyalty's value as a virtue, on the other hand, will be closely tied to (a) the real (rather than expected) value of those hoped-for goods, and (b) the strength of the evidence upon which one hopes and trusts that they will obtain in the way expected. The objects of loyalty fall into paradigmatically natural and conventional kinds, such as friends, families, countries and professions; though these do not exhaust the classes of objects loyalties fall under.

However, it can be said that loyalty is loyal manner. Loyalty is the quality, state, or an instance of being loyal; fidelity or tenacious adherence. Loyal is faithful and the devoted to a private person; faithful or tenacious in adherence to s cause, ideal, practice or custom. Loyalty requires beliefs about the value of the friend or the relationship which derive their justification from knowledge about (a) one's own character and commitments, (b) the friend's character and commitments, and (c) some relation between (a) and (b).

Winata (2014) in his articles talks about loyalty. There are some meanings in some actions that can viewed as the characteristics of loyalty. The first is obedience or discipline. Loyalty can be reflected in person's action when he accepts the trust from someone, company or institution. It automatically makes a person feel responsible to

something like a job, a person or something else that's considered important. The second is commitment. Loyalty is physically manifested by how much thought, care, ideas and complete dedication. The third is allegiance. Loyalty is also reflected in good relationships with other people. Able to communicate well and work together in good way to achieve their goals for someone, a company, or country and something else like a rule. The fourth is sacrifice. Loyalty can also grow when someone is bound by a promise, by sense of belonging and by love of affection. Even though, it would sacrifice everything that it had possessed or in other words it would make them out of the comfort zone of their life.

Loyalty is very important in friendships, business relationships and personal relationship but being too loyal to someone can have disadvantages. There is a question emerges. Is loyalty always a good thing? Loyalty has many positive outcomes and benefits to it. One benefit is that when you are loyal you earn trust administration and even a thanks from someone important to you. When have trust from someone, you feel good about yourself. Other person would have a good feeling towards you because you were loyal to them. Another good benefit of being loyal is that you earn a good reputation for yourself. Having a good reputation can be very important throughout your career and life. Lastly from being a loyal person you would have great success and many life time opportunities coming towards you because people know that you are a loyal trust-worthy person who will not let them down.

This study uses the theory of loyalty by Fletcher and some other respective ones stated above to elaborate what kinds of loyalty are portrayed in the novel *Tell Me Your Dreams* written by Sidney Sheldon.

3. Research Method

This study uses qualitative descriptive method based on Sugiyono's (2009). The method is used to describe the kinds of loyalty in the novel *Tell Me Your Dreams* written by Sidney Sheldon as the source of data. The data were collected used taking note method proposed by Sugiyono (2009) and quoting method by Sutopo (2005). These techniques are used to select the relevant data to the research problem by selecting information without depending on the amount of information. The data were analysed using the techniques proposed by Creswell (2013). Reduction data were conducted after the data collection to make data categorization based on the kinds of loyalty. After categorizing the data, interpretation of the data was conducted to answer the research problem.

4. Discussion

Loyalty can be found in every aspect of human life. It is a relation between two or more persons, being loyal to a person, a company or others.

4.1 Being Loyal to His Mother

Loyalty can be said as a value or circumstance where the person who owns it is a lucky person. Loyalty can be seen by some acts of the protagonist, as show in the data below.

My name is Singer. My mother almost died. I want you to save her.
There's no time to sign, cried David. She's dying and I'm not gonna let that happen. Just please, the doctors say that you are our only hope.
The doctors were afraid of the surgery. They say that you are the only

one who can save my mother life. Dr. Patterson shook his head, on my schedule. Go the hell with your schedule, she's my mom. You have to save her, she is the only family I have. David still sat; his eyes closed tight. He heard Dr. Patterson said: I don't want to promise anything, but I will check out her, where is she? (Sheldon, 2014: 141).

The quotation above shows the conversation between David Singer and D. Patterson. Singer asks the doctor to save her mother from dying. The statement *I want you to save her* which is conveyed by Singer to the doctor has implication that he has a loyalty to his mother. The statement *I'm not gonna let that happen* in the quotation above strengthens Singer's loyalty to his mother. He states that he will not let her mother die because she is the only one person he has. He asks the doctor to perform the surgery for his mother. He even does not care about the doctor's surgery schedule. The way how he acts indicates he is loyal to his mother.

The following quotation gives more enforcement about loyalty Singer has to his mother.

David your mother's life means everything to you. Ashley's life means as much to me. You once asked me for my help and you put your mother's life in my hands. Now, I ask your help and place Ashley's life in your hands. I need you to stick up for Ashley. You owe me that, David (Sheldon, 2014: 175).

The quotation is Dr. Patterson's dialogue to Singer. It can be seen that the doctor asks for an agreement from Singer. Singer even agrees to make a deal with the doctor in return the doctor saves his mother. The doctor asks for Singer's commitment to stick up for Ashley, his daughter. The doctor asks for Singer's help and places Ashley's life in Singer's hand. Singer deals with this for saving her mother. The deal made indicates that David and Dr. Patterson have a good allegiance through Ashley's existence. It is a characteristic of loyalty as reflected in good relationships with other people, able to communicate well and work together in good way to achieve their goals for someone. Furthermore, the following quotation ensures Singer's loyalty to his mother.

David sat tensed. Dr. Patterson looked at him. "What?" "There is another problem. "Oh really?" I don't have any money. I was a law student and I worked in college. Dr. Patterson looked at him. David said with determination. I am gonna find a way to pay you. Even if it means I am bound for life, you will still get paid. I understand that you charge a lot, and I cannot ask anyone for help, Dr, Patterson. I am begging you (Sheldon, 2014: 142).

The quotation is about the dialogue between Dr. Patterson and David Singer. The statement *Even if it means I am bound for life* indicates that David is ready to suffer for saving his mother from illness. He is a student and he has not much money to pay his mother's surgery. He agrees even if the doctor asks for his life to be bound with the doctor. The statement has implication that David is ready to the worst, meaning to be a slave for saving her mother. It is such a commitment which Singer can give to the doctor. It is also a sacrifice he makes to save her mother. The commitment and sacrifice shown by Singer are the characteristics of loyalty. David's commitment and sacrifice

are physically manifested by how much thought, care, ideas and complete dedication he has for his mother.

4.2. Being Loyal to His Friend

David Singer's loyalty is portrayed clearly by the writer of the novel. Not only being loyal to his mother but also to his friend is shown by Singer. See the quotation below.

Dr. Patterson pulled out a handwritten letter and handed it to David, David knew very well what was in it: Dear Dr. Patterson, No words can express how much I indebted to you and how much I appreciate your kindness, if there is anything I can do for you someday, just say it to me and that request will be done. David looked the letter without seeing it. David, would you please talk to Ashley? Yes, of course I'll talk to her. Dr. Patterson up, Thank you (Sheldon, 2014: 149).

The quotation above expresses the situation when Dr. Patterson asks for David Singer's help. He gives Singer the letter Singer writes when he asks Dr. Patterson to save her mother. He asks Singer's commitment to help Ashley. And Singer agrees with it. Fulfilling the commitment created means being loyal. See the following quotation.

I have decided to defend her. I'm not doing this because I want to, Joseph. I'm obliged to do it. I'm deeply indebted to Dr. Patterson and this is the only way I can repay his debt (Sheldon, 2014: 188-189).

It is clear that the commitment Singer makes to Dr. Patterson to help Ashley is fulfilled. The statement *this is the only way I can repay his debt* implies Singer's loyalty.

From the description above, it can be seen that the novel illustrates about loyalty performed by the protagonist to his mother and to his friend; loyalty shown by the writer of the novel by illustrating how David Singer tries to save his mother from illness and how he fulfils his commitment towards Dr. Patterson by saving his daughter, Ashley. Based on the characteristics of loyalty stated by Fletcher (1993), the protagonist' loyalty is described clearly in the novel as one of the themes.

5. Conclusion

After analysing the protagonist's loyalty in the novel based on Fletcher's (1993), it can be concluded that there are two kinds of loyalty shown by the protagonist. They are being loyal to his mother and being loyal to his friend. Being loyal to his mother is shown by Singer by making a deal with Dr. Patterson to save his mother. In return, the doctor asks David's commitment to help Ashley for law matter. He is also willing to sacrifice himself for saving her mother. Being loyal to his friend is shown by Singer by defending Ashley in the court. He fulfils his promise to save his friend. However, the portrayal of protagonist's loyalty in the novel shows us that loyalty is very important in our life. Being loyal will help us in solving the problems we face.

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