

# A REFLECTION OF MARRIAGE TEMPTATION IN DANIELLE STEEL'S NOVEL *THE KISS*: READER-RESPONSE CRITICISM

Sri Wulan

Fakultas Sastra, Universitas Islam Sumatera Utara  
sriwulan@sastra.uisu.ac.id

## Abstract

This analysis focuses on the marriage temptations which are represented by the characters in Danielle's novel *The Kiss*. There are two married couples in the novel. Both couples experience such temptations in their marriages. Those temptations become the object of this analysis. The analysis is based on the theory of Heitler's three A marriage breakers. Then, the narrative approach is applied in this analysis. The result shows that there are three forms of marriage temptations found in the novel. First, both married couples in the novel face family problems. Second, there is anger which comes from the protagonist's husband, and this destroys their happiness. Third, there is love affair which happens among the characters. This is as the impact of the family problems. The three marriage breakers happen to the married couples in the novel. In conclusion, marriage temptation can happen to each married couple. The most important point of this analysis that actually the marriage temptation teaches a married couple to be more mature. Therefore, the married couple should find any solution to such temptation.

**Keywords:** marriage, temptation, family, couple, reader-response criticism.

## I. Introduction

It is very common that life is full of problems, life is not to be thought but to be enjoyed. If people just think of their problem, they will never have any progress, and they will sink under the sea with their problem itself. Whatever the problem is, life must go on. The days which come must be considered as a new day. It means however the life will change and the problem will come to an end. Those who can face the problem patiently and carefully they will survive.

Only those who are weak will cry and suffer. They will say that their life is the worst. They will face this life pessimistically. As depicted in the novel *The Kiss* by Danielle Steel, there are two marriages portrayed as facing their own marriage problems. Those are Isabelle's marriage and Bill's marriage.

Heitler (2011) says that a marriage is a living family system. Like all living things, a marriage can get infected with toxic agents that result in its death. Immunities provide a

means to combat potential infectious agents. Indeed, every marriage faces temptations. These temptations can make the marriage more mature. The temptations in marriage make a couple better understand each other. However, marriage temptation can also break the integrity of the household which results in divorce. This is also reflected in Steel's novel *The Kiss*. The protagonist and deuteragonist face problems in their marriage so they feel they have something in common that makes them fall in love with each other.

According to Bonhoeffer (1967:27), marriage is more than your love for each other. In your love you see only the heaven of your own happiness, but in marriage you are placed at a post of responsibility towards the world and mankind. Your love is your own private possession, but marriage is more than something personal—it is a status, and office. Just as it is the crown, and not merely the will to rule, that makes the king, so it is marriage, and not merely your love for each other, that joins you together in the sight of God and man.

Marriage is based on the anthropological truth that men and women are complementary, the biological fact that reproduction depends on a man and a woman, and the social reality that children need a mother and a father. (Anderson, 2013)

Hughes (1999), the term "temptation" admits of two normative senses, a primary meaning which is essentially moral, and a secondary meaning which is non-moral although nevertheless evaluative.

GradesFixer (2018), temptation is defined as a strong urge or desire to have or to do something. Most people experience temptation in their lives whether big or small. Temptation is simply a flaw that we as humans are going to experience because we are not perfect and crave what we do not have. However, how that individual handles that certain crave shows a lot about their character. Though we all experience temptations, it is up to us to make mindful decisions about what is in our best interest.

Day's conception of temptation as quoted by Hughes (1999) implies that to tempt involves intentionally engaging a person's desire for that which is in some sense wrong. Though he concedes that tempting may be

unintentional, and gives an example of a beautiful woman unconsciously and unintentionally tempting her husband's best friend to commit adultery with her, Day (1993) insists that temptations are usually conscious and intended. In keeping with his focus on the active dimension of the core moral meaning of the term, Day thus defines "temptation" from the standpoint of one person tempting another: "a tempter (TR) tempts a temptee (TE) by offering (TE) something which (TR believes) will please (TE)." Furthermore, temptation requires that the subject desire that which he thinks is in some sense wrong. Temptation thus occurs when a tempter engages a temptee's wrongful desire in circumstances in which the temptee's resistance is weakened. Moreover, "Tempting is morally wrong because it is morally wrong to try to cause TE (the person tempted) to do what is morally, or prudentially, or aesthetically, or legally, wrong."

The above description about marriage and temptation are like two sides of a coin. It can be said that each married may experience marriage temptation. By facing these temptations, a lot of married couples can pass and they become more mature. On the other hand, other married couples seem to fail in overcoming these temptations. Indeed, such marriage temptations can be found in Danielle's novel *The Kiss*. This can arouse the reader to interpret the temptation experienced by the protagonist and the deuteragonist. In short, this is also as the reason why this study focuses on marriage temptation as representation of real marriage life.

It is hoped that this study can give a representation of a real marriage life through the analyzed variable.

## II. Literary Review

Russel as in Wimalasena (2016) describes that in modern times, the most important aspects of marriage are social, religious as well as legal. Bertrand Russel says that "marriage differs, of course, from other sex relations by the fact that it is a legal institution. It is also in most communities a religious institution, but it is the legal aspect which is essential". (Russell, 1959: 88).

Then Wimalasena (2016) also quotes Stone's description of marriage. The fundamental basis of marriage is defined as "a personal association between a man and a woman and a biological relationship for mating

and reproduction. As a social, legal and religious institution, marriage has undergone any number of modifications and changes; nevertheless, its basic realities remain the same. The permanent, indissoluble, sacramental union of the orthodox differs strikingly from the free, easily served, and often not even officially registered marriages, let us say, of a modern Russian, and yet both of these marriages have certain underlying elements in common. In both instances, the couple seeks to make their union stable. They assume the freedom and privilege of a sexual relationship, and normally have as their ultimate aim the establishment of a family. Biologically, the object of marriage is not to legalize a sexual union, but rather to ensure the survival of the species and of the race. From this point of view, marriage is not merely a sexual relationship, but a parental association. It is the union of a male and a female for production and care of offspring and reproduction is, therefore, another fundamental object or purpose of marriage". (Stone, 1939: 18).

**Three Marriage Breaker.** Heitler (2011) costs of the three main marriage deal-breakers: Alcoholism, Affairs and Anger. The 3 A mistakes can get you fired from the job of spouse. Alcoholism, affairs and anger, in addition to wrecking your marriage, can have profoundly negative impacts on your children. Modeling addictions, affairs and anger teaches your kids that this is what adults do. At the same time, addictive, sexually unfaithful and excessively angry behaviors teach your kids that attachments are unreliable and unsafe, making your kids less able to establish secure positive relationships as they reach adulthood.

Then, Hitler (2011) gives any potential remedies that can strengthen your resistance, keeping your relationships healthy.

### 1. Addictions

If your usage of a substance like alcohol or drugs, or habit like excessive shopping or sports-watching, ever prompted someone you love to say to you, "Too much,"

listen up. The biggest mistake people make with addictions, alcohol and otherwise, is that they deny that they are over-doing it. They get defensive. They insist "I'm only drinking so much because ..." They claim, "You do it too.." or "Everyone drinks like that.." They minimize, "I just drink....". Denial is tempting, and extremely self-defeating. Resist this temptation, and you have a chance at averting the potentially marriage-threatening consequences of an addiction that you persist in sustaining. The remedy is to take your loved one's concern seriously. Seriously reassess your habit.

## 2. Affairs

To resist the temptations of a sexual involvement with someone other than your beloved, beware of letting yourself enjoy the early titillation phase of getting to know someone new. The remedy is plan ahead with your spouse your will-do's and will not do's by agreeing on prevention policies. Take early exits from potentially sexual situations.

## 3. Anger

From quiet sarcasm to verbal or physical abuse, everyone feels angry in provocative situations. The question is how then to prevent angry feelings from erupting in counter-productive snide comments or hurtful actions. The temptation to speak out in anger can lead to an ever-worsening situation. Even low-level angry tone of voice, words and actions are bound to create trouble. The remedy is to learn about anger, and how to corral its arousal into constructive outlets.

**Reader-Response Criticism:** This approach takes as a fundamental tenet that "literature"

exists not as an artifact upon a printed page but as a transaction between the physical text and the mind of a reader. It attempts "to describe what happens in the reader's mind while interpreting a text" and reflects that *reading*, like writing, is a creative process. According to reader-response critics, literary texts do not "contain" a meaning; meanings derive only from the act of individual readings. Hence, two different readers may derive completely different interpretations of the same literary text; likewise, a reader who re-reads a work years later may find the work shockingly different. Reader-response criticism, then, emphasizes how "religious, cultural, and social values affect readings; it also overlaps with gender criticism in exploring how men and women read the same text with different assumptions." Though this approach rejects the notion that a single "correct" reading exists for a literary work, it does not consider all readings permissible: "Each text creates limits to its possible interpretations."

Reader Response Criticism is the focus and analysis of the readers experience in reading a text. Proponents of this school of thought believe "what a text is cannot be separated from what it does" (Tyson 170). This is in opposition to what New Critics believed about a text, because they viewed the work as "an isolated aesthetic object with a single meaning" (149). Reader Response critics share two main beliefs: "(1) that the role of the reader cannot be omitted from our understanding of literature and (2) that readers do not passively consume the meaning presented to them by an objective literary text; rather they actively make the meaning they find in literature" (170). This gives the reader more influence in the meaning of the text compared to other critical literary theories and it turns the text into an event rather than an object. And because of the differences in people's experiences, knowledge, beliefs, moods, and purpose for reading a text they will interpret different meanings from their reading, as evidenced by the "The House Passage" experiment (170).

Tyson goes on to illuminate five different Reader Response theories out of the gamut of opinions that "range from the belief that the literary text is as active as the reader in creating meaning to the belief that the text

doesn't exist at all except as it is created by readers" (172).

Transactional reader-response theory championed by Louise Rosenblatt argues the text and the reader "are equally important" (173). It's her goal to analyze the transaction between the reader and text to determine the range of available meanings. She distinguishes between the efferent, or informational aspect of the text, and the aesthetic experience.

Affective stylistics argue "the text [is not] an objective, autonomous entity- it does not have a fixed meaning independent of readers- because the text consists of the results it produces, and those results occur within the reader" (175). Proponents of this theory analyze "the mental processes produced by specific elements in the text" (175) through a very slow and deliberate reading of what the text *does*.

The Subjective reader response school championed by David Bleich distinguishes between real and symbolic objects. Bleich claims that in reading we create a conceptual world in our minds using symbolization, and "when we interpret the meaning of the text, we are actually interpreting the meaning of our own symbolization" (178). It's not that we like or dislike a text, rather "we like or dislike our symbolization of it" because "the only text is the text in the mind of the reader" (178).

The Psychological reader response championed by Norman Holland argues reader's interpretations say more about themselves than they do about the text. Everyone creates an identity theme in which we "perceive the world through the lens of our psychological experience" (183). It's through that identity theme that we view life, and we use the same lens to understand a text, therefore "[o]ur interpretations, then, are products of the fears, defenses, needs, and desires we project onto the text" (183).

The Social reader response championed by Stanley Fish argues "there is no purely individual subjective response [to a text]" (185). Fish claims there's an interpretive community

that influences and shares the same interpretive strategies as the reader, therefore any response to a text is communal. The Social reader critic claims "that no interpretation, and therefore no form of literary criticism, can claim to reveal what's *in* a text" (186).

### III. Method

This study applies narrative approach. In contrast to the other approaches, narrative can be a research method or an area of study in and of itself. According to Creswell (2013: 70), the approach focuses on the former, and defines it as a study of experiences as expressed in lived and told stories of individuals. This approach emerged out of a literary, storytelling tradition and has been used in many social science disciplines. He further narrative researchers collect stories, documents, and group conversations about the lived and told experiences of one or two individuals. They record the stories using interview, observation, documents and images and then report the experiences and chronologically order the meaning of those experiences.

The data are taken by collecting the parts of the stories in the novel which are related to the variable of this study. That is marriage temptation. Then, the data is identified and categorized into three forms of marriage temptation which are found in the novel. It is based on Heitler's theory about 3 A marriage breaker. Next, it is retelling the stories or narrating the data related to marriage temptations experienced by the characters in the novel. The last is getting the finding as the conclusion.

### IV. Analysis

There are three marriage temptations found in this novel. This is a reflection of real marriage life. In fact, many married couples experience like what is experienced by the characters in this novel. As in theory above, there are also found the marriage breakers in the novel. Those are considered as the marriage temptations which are experienced by the protagonist and deuteragonist in their marriage. The following are the marriage

temptations found in the novel by applying reading-response criticism.

#### a. Family Problem

There are two marriage couples found in this novel. They are Isabelle's and Bill's marriages. Both marriages have family problems. Isabelle has problem with her husband because of their children. While Bill has also not harmonious marriage owing to that he and his wife are so busy with their own business. The protagonist, Isabella and the deuteragonist, Bill have experienced their own marriage temptation.

The problem Isabella faces when she deals with Gordon, her husband is since Teddy's birth. And just because she has a chance to go, she feel guilty about it, because of Teddy. Teddy is born three months premature. He has been badly damaged at birth, and as a result, his lungs have not developed properly, Which in turn have weakened his heart. In short, the birth of Teddy delivers Isabella a big temptation in her family. The quotation below will prove it.

Born three months premature, he had been badly damaged at birth, and as a result, his lungs had not developed properly, which in turn had weakened his heart. He was tutored at home, and had never been to school. At fourteen, he had been bedridden for most of his life, and moved around the house in a wheelchair whenever he was too weak to do so under his own steam (Steel, 2001:1-2).

The above shows how weak Teddy is. He depend his life totally on Isabella's arm. She has to care about Teddy very well. This, of course, shakes her marriage with Gordon, her husband. Since this happens, Gordon becomes cold to her and even seldom speaks to her. The beginning of the novel shows how family problem attacks their marriage. And, this is considered a their marriage temptation.

Further, Isabelle and her husband has tried some effort to make Teddy' s condition better by consulting a doctor.

She and Gordon had spoken to his doctors of a heart-lung transplant, performed in the States, but their conclusion was that he was too weak to survive the surgery or

perhaps even the trip. So there was no question of risking either. (Steel, 2001:2)

The quotation above describes that Teddy is in serious condition. The doctor is not sure whether Teddy can survive in his illness. Consequently, Isabelle has to be ready to the nurse for Teddy and sacrifices her own happiness. Teddy has had nurses all his life, but it is his mother who tend to him most of the time. She has long since abandoned her friends, her own pursuits, and any semblance of a life of her own. She only forays into the world in recent years are in the evening with Gordon, and only rarely. Her entire mission in life is keeping Teddy alive, and happy.

Isabella realizes that the child has a degenerative disease that is attacking his heart, his lungs are inadequate, and his entire system is slowly deteriorating. The consensus of opinion is that it will be a miracle if he survived into his twenties.

As a result, the above problem makes Isabelle and Gordon seem to lose their intimacy. After Teddy, there are no more babies. Gordon has no desire for them, and Isabella has no time. She gives everything she has to her son. Not only to the spouse, it results in their daughter, Sophie. The following quotation shows that.

In Sophie's case, she simply seemed to have inherited the trait her father had created in himself. Even as a baby, she had been far less affectionate than her brother had been, and rather than turning to anyone for help, particularly Isabelle, she preferred to do everything for herself. Gordon's coolness had translated to independence in her, and a kind of standoffish pride. Isabelle wondered sometimes if it had been her instinctive reaction to her brother needing so much of her mother's time.

.....

In her case, it seemed almost an attempt to prove that she did not need the time and energy her mother did not have to give, due to Teddy's being constantly ill (2001:5-6).

Isabelle just focuses on the Teddy's illness and she always exists for Teddy but not for Shopie. First, Shopie may understand Teddy's condition, but finally she seems out of control. This gives another problem for Isabelle's family.

Next, beside Isabelle's family problem, Bill also finds his own problem with his wife.

Bill's marriage is not harmonious. He is just busy with his own business and his wife is too.

He has been married since he was twenty years old, thirty years later, what he has left is the shell of marriage of marriage. Cindy, his wife, has come to hate the political world, the people they meet, the things Bill has to do, the events they have to go, and the amount of time he has to travel. She has total contempt for Politicians. And, for Bill for having devotes a life-time to them (Steel, 2001:9).

Both Bill and his wife just think of themselves. Consequently, they seldom communicate each other. They run their own business and do what they want without thinking of their partner. The following quotations show how their marriage seems unhealthy. They live as a married couple but they have in separation.

The only things Cynthia is interested in, now that the girls were gone, were her own friends in Connecticut, going to parties, and playing tennis. And whether or not Bill was part of that life seemed unimportant to her. She had shut him out emotionally years before and led her own life, not without bitterness toward him. She had spent thirty years with him coming and going, and putting political events ahead of everything that mattered to her. He had never been home for graduations and holidays and birthdays. He was always somewhere else, grooming a candidate for a primary or an election. And for the past four years, he had been a constant visitor at the White House (Steel, 2001:9)

Bill gets used to being alone. He is almost never accompanied by his wife in a lot of occasion. It symbolizes that they have not

harmonious marriage. Tragically, they seem not to have sexual interest each other.

It was almost as though she took pride in the fact that she was no longer sexually interested in her husband (Steel, 2001:10)

What happen to Isabelle's and Bill's marriage become their family problem which can cause their separation and other problems.

The above family problems which come to Isabelle' and Bill's marriages can be considered as marriage temptation. The problems represent real marriage life.

#### **b. Anger**

In Isabella's marriage, there is big anger from her husband, Gordon. He is the head of the largest American investments bank in Paris, and has been for years. At fifty-eight, he is seventeen years older than Isabella. They have drifted apart over the years. She is aware of it, and thinks it is because of Teddy.

Gordon cannot tolerate the aura of constant illness that hangs over the child like a sword waiting to fall. He has never allowed himself to be close to him, and they all know it. His aversion to Toddy's illness is so extreme. It is almost phobic. Teddy himself is acutely aware of it, and has thought his father hates him when is younger. But as he grows older, he sees it differently. By the time he is ten, he understands that his father is frightened by his illness, panicked almost, and the only way he can escape it is to ignore him entirely, and pretend the child does not exist. And, Isabella understands what Gordon makes to Teddy. It has become a big problem for her but she can do nothing (Steel, 2001:7-8)

Gordon's coldness toward his wife, on the other hand, is far more extreme. Isabella feels that Gordon hates her because of Teddy. Even, Teddy can feel how his father treats him.

His father had always been uncomfortable in the face of his illness, and Teddy had had nurses all his life, but it was his mother who tended to him most of the time (Danielle, 2001:2).

By the time he was ten, he understood that his father was frightened by his illness, panicked almost, and the only way he could escape it was to ignore him entirely, and pretend the child didn't exist (Danielle, 2001:5).

Gordon could not tolerate the aura of constant illness that hung over the child like a sword waiting to fall. He had never allowed himself to be close to him, and they all knew it. His aversion to Teddy's illness was so extreme, it was almost phobic (Steel, 2001:7-8).

Teddy begins to ask why his father, Gordon hates him so much so that his father also gets very angry and disappointed with their family condition. It really hurts Teddy. Even though, finally he realizes why his father seems not to receive Teddy's condition, His father still gets angry with Teddy's mother, Isabella. The following shows how Gordon tries to avoid Isabella. This is because of their son's condition which cannot be received by Gordon.

Emotionally, Gordon had been removed from her for years, since shortly after Teddy's birth. Years before she met Bill, Gordon had moved out of their bedroom. At the time, he had explained it by saying that she went to bed too late and rose too early, and it disturbed him. But she had sensed accurately that there was more to it than that (Steel, 2001:6).

Gordon has a dispassionate view of life, and generally observes life from a safe distance, as though he were willing to watch the game but not play it, unlike Teddy and Isabella, who are passionate about everything they feel, and express it. And her devotion to her son has long distanced Gordon from her. Not wanting to make things worse between them or confront him, she has never dared to challenge him about it. But she has known for a long time that Gordon's affections for her has at first diminished, and then finally disappears. It is as what the quotation below describes.

"Isabelle could no longer even remember the last time they had touched or kissed, or made love. It was a fact of life she now

accepted. She had long since learned to live without her husband's love. She had often suspected that he not only associated Teddy's illness with her, but blamed her for it, although the doctors had reassured her that his infirmities and premature birth had not been her fault." (Danielle. 2001:18)

Gordon has put up a wall between and his wife to shut out the images of illness he detests. He has not been able to tolerate what he perceives as weakness since he was a child himself. The wall between them is one that Isabelle no longer attempts to scale, although she has at first. Her attempts at drawing closer to him after Teddy's birth has been futile, Gordon has resisted all her efforts, until finally she accepts the vast, lonely chasm between them as a way of life.

Gordon has always been cool and business like by nature. He is said to be ruthless in business and not a warm person in any aspect of his life but in spite of that, he has been affectionate with her at first. His standoffishness has almost seemed like a challenge to her, and is unfamiliar to her. But because of that, each smile wins, each warm gesture, has felt like a victory to her, and all the more impressive because he shows no warmth to anyone else. She has been very young then, intrigued by him. He seems so competent, and so powerful in her eyes, and in many ways impressive. (Steel: 2001:7)

He is a man in total control of every aspect of his world. And there has been much about Isabelle that Gordon has liked, and which has reassured him that she will make perfect wife. Her ancestry certainly, her aristocratic heritage, and name, her important connections, has served him well at the bank. Her family's fortune has evaporated years before, but their importance in social and political circles has not. Marrying her has increased his stature socially, which is an important factor for him. She is the perfect accessory to enhance both his standing and his career. And in addition to the appeal of her pedigree, there has been a childlike innocence about her that briefly opened the door to his heart.

The above description of Gordon's angry represent that a marriage may

experience such temptation. One of the married couple may become the one who cannot control his/her emotion. He/she often shows anger to their spouse. This actually should be realized by the married couple and together both can find any solution to such temptation in marriage.

### C. Love Affair

The love between Isabelle and Bill is actually forbidden as they have been married and had children. Moreover, Isabelle has a sickly son and a self busy daughter, who need much her care. It can be felt how big Isabelle's task is. She should look after her son and prepare her daughter's need. And she, in fact, feels any kind of surfeit that may pushes her to something which she herself has never done it before. Finally, she seeks something which can make her cheerful, that is, her love to Bill.

He was a power broker and a king maker, but what had impressed Isabelle was how quiet and unpretentious he was, when they met.

.....

Bill had been fascinated by her stories, just as she was by his, and over the next months, an odd but comfortable friendship had formed between them, via telephone and letters (Steel, 2001:3).

At the first meeting, Isabelle has got impressed by Bill's appearance. They have fallen in love at the first meeting. They feel like having the same problem. That is that they feel uncomfortable with their spouse. The quotation below shows how their love grows.

"I've loved you since the first time we met. But there's nothing we can do about it." They both knew that....

.....

"I love you, Bill," she whispered as he held her close to him, "... so very much...." And as she said the words, he put his lips on hers, and he was only sorry he hadn't done it before. It was a moment they had both waited a lifetime for, and it brought them closer than they had ever been.....(Steel, 2001:59).

The following quotation also proves that they love each other. They think just how they can be united and be strong in facing their problem. They feel agreeable with their marriage temptation. They feel to have problem in common. This makes their love grow bigger and bigger.

"About us. I'm in love with you. I swore to myself I wasn't going to say those words to you. I know it's not fair, but I want you to know. I want you to take that with you when you go back tomorrow, or whenever you do. I love you, Isabelle. I have for a long time." As he said it, he had never felt as vulnerable in his life. (Steel, 2001:58-59)

However, their happiness does not last long. When they are in London, their car crashes. The quotation below shows what they are undergoing.

He was kissing her as they entered the intersection, and the driver was watching them in the rearview mirror, so mesmerized by what he saw there, and so fascinated, that he never saw the red double-decker bus bearing down on them at full speed. It was only yards from Isabelle's side of the car as he pulled into the intersection, and there was no way it could stop. Bill was still kissing her as the bus sheared off the entire front of the car, and the driver literally vanished into thin air. They never caught their breath, never looked up, never knew what had happened to them (Steel, 2001; 87)

Bill and Isabelle are both listed as critical. Isabelle's head injury is a factor too, But is not nearly as severe as her internal injures. Meanwhile for Bill, the big question for him is going to be the use of his legs. They both have a long stretch of road to travel before their survival will be assure.

Beside the love affair which happens to Isabelle and Bill, there is also Cindy's affair. She is Bill's wife. Actually, Bill has known his wife's affair. But he never tries to prove it.

Whatever there had once been between them was long gone. She had had a face-lift the year before, and he knew that she had been having discreet affairs for years. It had been her revenge for a single indiscretion he'd committed ten years before, with the wife of a congressman, and never repeated. But Cindy was not long on forgiveness (Steel, 2001:10).

As it is stated in the theory, the affair becomes one of marriage beakers. This is also as the marriage temptation which can break marriage if the married couple cannot preserve

their love and maintain their loyalty to their own spouse. That is why it can be interpreted that what the married couples experience in this novel, indeed, represents what happen in real marriage life.

From the above, it can be concluded that the love affair between the main characters, Isabelle and Bill, appears due to some problems. These problems involve their own family problems. These family problems become the causes of their forbidden relationship.

## V. Conclusion

All in all, the finding shows that there are three forms of marriage temptations which the marriage couples experience in this novel. They are family problem, anger, and love affair. These are interpreted as the marriage temptations which represent the real marriage life. The interpretation of this marriage temptation can be found by applying reading response criticism. These marriage temptations actually can be something to ponder by the married couple to find out the solution to any marriage problems or temptations.

Then, the result of the analysis indicates that everything should have a cause. And the cause can come from every aspect of our life. Thus, we should be care each problem coming to our life in order that we can anticipate the negative effect of them.

### Reference

- Anderson, Ryan T. (March 11, 2013) Marriage: what it is, why it matters, and the consequences of redefining it. *Backgrounder: the heritage foundation* (2775). Retrieved from: <http://report.heritage.org/bg2775>
- Bonhoeffer, D. (1967). *Letters and Papers from Prison*, ed. Eberhard Bethge. New York: Macmillan.
- Creswell, JW. (2013). *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design Choosing Among Five Approaches*. London: SAGE

Danielle, S. (2001). *The Kiss*. New York: Dell Publishing

Day, J.P. (April, 1993), Temptation. *American philosophical quarterly*, 30.2, pp. 175–183

Heitler, S. (2011, Oct 23). *Resisting the 3 main temptations that destroy marriages*. Retrieved from: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/ntl/blog/resolution-not-conflict/201110/resisting-the-3-main-temptations-destroy-marriages>

Hughes, P. (1999). Temptation and the Manipulation of Desire. *The Journal of value Inquiry*. 33. 10.1023/A:1004590630623. [http://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/bitstream/2027.42/42952/1/10790\\_2004\\_Article\\_208516.pdf](http://deepblue.lib.umich.edu/bitstream/2027.42/42952/1/10790_2004_Article_208516.pdf)

GradesFixer. (2018, Jun 29) *A critique of temptation: confessions of a marriage counselor, a movie by tyler perry*. Retrived October 23, 2019, from <https://gradesfixer.com/free-essayexamples/a-critique-of-temptation-confessions-of-a-marriage-counselor-a-movie-by-tyler-perry/>

Russell, Bertran (1959). *Marriage and Morals*. New York: Bantom Books.

Tyson, L. (2006). *Critical Theory Today: A User-Friendly Guide*. New York: Routledge, Retrieved from: <https://medium.com/@brettwilcox/reader-response-literary-criticism-2d6a00ac6933>

Wimalasena, N.A. (Jan 2016). An analytical study of definitions of the term marriage. *International journal of humanities and social science*, 6(1). Retrieved from: [http://www.ijhssnet.com/journals/Vol\\_6\\_No\\_1\\_January\\_2016/21.pdf](http://www.ijhssnet.com/journals/Vol_6_No_1_January_2016/21.pdf)

