

## THE SEXUAL MOTIVES AND PURPOSES IN EVIE BLAKE'S VALENTINA

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### ABSTRACT

This study focuses on Valentina's and Belle's sexual motives, purposes, and activities in Evie Blake's novel, entitled *Valentina*. Hence, the theory of Psychology and Literature and the concept of sexuality are used by the researcher to analyze this novel. Furthermore, this study uses qualitative design. The researcher involves herself in collecting and analyzing the data. The data of this study are taken from the author's narration and also the characters' utterances. The result of this study reveals that Valentina's love to her lovers, curiosity of sadomasochism, and sexual desire becomes her motives to have sexual activities. As for Belle's sexual motives are her love to Santos and her sexual desire. Meanwhile, Valentina's and Belle's purposes in doing sex are to feel a sexual pleasure and an emotional satisfaction. In addition, Valentina also wants to have a baby from her lover, Theo. Hence, it is known the kinds of sexual activities which Valentina and Belle do and experience with their partners.

**Keywords:** *Valentina*, Psychology and Literature, Sexuality.

## INTRODUCTION

One of knowledge that can be learnt by the readers in reading literature is about human psychology. The authors reveal human psychological aspects through the fictional characters. Concerning with psychology and literature, there is an author that explores the idea of psychology within a literary work. She is Evie Blake. In her novel, *Valentina*, she depicted the representation of human psychology in sexuality which was experienced by characters; Valentina and Belle. Blake told those characters experienced their latent desires. These characters' behaviors were driven by certain motives and purposes.

Sexuality is valued if it was confined to the commitment which we call a marriage and its aim to create a family (Schuurman, 2001; Seidman, n.d.). Hence, sexuality is interesting to be analyzed because through this novel, it is known that a marriage relationship as the social norm was not the reason that affected the characters to have sexual activities.

Since this study focuses on sexual motives, purposes, and activities of the characters, the theory of psychology and literature and the concept of sexuality are used to analyze the novel. Holland argued that by Psychology and Literature means that the application psychology used to explore literary problems and behavior (1990: 29). Based on this quotation, this study discusses about the psychological aspects of the characters within a literary work. McKinney and Sprecher (in Harvey, Wenzel, and Sprecher, 2004: 3) defined sexuality as referring to "sexual behaviors, arousal, responses, as well as to sexual attitudes, desires, and communication". People engage in sexual activities because they are driven by their certain sexual motives. They also have own purposes which they want to achieve in doing sexual activities. Hence, it can be known various kinds of sexual activities which people can do and experience with their partners.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study used qualitative design. The source of data of this study was a novel entitled *Valentina* written by Evie Blake. The data were the author's narration and the characters' utterances which represent sexual motives, purposes, and activities of Valentina and Belle. The method of collecting the data was content analysis in which the researcher analyzed the content of the source of data to answer the research problem. The key instrument in this study was the researcher herself. Furthermore, in analyzing the data, the researcher did four steps simultaneously; these are collection, reduction, display, and conclusion.

## DISCUSSION

### 4.1 *Valentina's Sexual Motives*

There are three kinds of Valentina's sexual motives; these are her love to Francesco and Theo, her curiosity of sadomasochism, and her sexual desire.

#### 4.1.1 *Her Love to Francesco and Theo*

Valentina makes a decision to engage in a sexual intimacy because she loves Francesco. Moreover, Francesco also loves her very much. Therefore, Valentina is willing to give him everything. It is known by the narration; "*It was the first time in her life that she felt she was the centre of someone else's world... Valentina gave him*

*everything...her virginity*" (Blake, 2012: 130). Based on this quotation, it is known that Valentina is willing to give Francesco her body. Hence, Valentina has a sexual activity with a man for the first time.

Valentina's relationship with Francesco is not long. By the time she finds a new lover, Theo. Moreover, she asks him to live together in her apartment. Hence, they have sex. It is quoted as *"they were to be flatmates...to have sex together"* (Blake: 2012: 9). Since Theo lives with Valentina, they become flat mates that have a sexual activity together. Here, Valentina's reason why she decides to have a sexual relationship with Theo is her love.

#### **4.1.2 Curiosity of Sadomasochism**

Valentina is offered by Leonardo to take images of sadomasochism. Yet, she never knows about this sex. So, she is curious about sadomasochism further. Furthermore, Leonardo asks Valentina to play a scenario of sadomasochism on her own. Valentina's involvement of sadomasochism can be seen in the following quotation:

She looks into the black material of her blindfold and she can see nothing...she feels something hot against the skin of her bottom...*Mio Dio*, he is pouring hot wax from one of the candles on to her backside!...she is enjoying this subjugation...she can herself throbbing, pulsing spasm deep inside, and then to her utter shock she is climaxing (Blake, 2012: 272-273).

By seeing the quotation above, it is known that Valentina experiences sadomasochism directly. It is proven by the occasion in which shows her eyes are closed by a blindfold and she feels a hot wax of the candles on her bottom.

#### **4.1.3 Sexual Desire**

Sexual desire becomes Valentina's motive to have sex with her lover, Theo. Valentina is intrigued when she sees Theo stands across the room with his naked body. It is known by the narration; *"She feels a stirring below her navel, deeper, deeper, as she watches him walk out the door. Why did she chill in his arm? Now she would like to make love"* (Blake, 2012: 6). Based on this quotation, it is known that Valentina feels a pulsation below her navel when she sees her manly lover, Theo. It is described that Valentina's desire is aroused. Furthermore, this sexual desire leads her to have a longing to make love with him.

### **4.2 Belle's Sexual Motives**

Belle has two kinds of sexual motives; these are her love to Santos Devine and her sexual desire.

#### **4.2.1 Her Love to Santos Devine**

At the first meeting, Belle realizes that she loves Santos. By the time, Belle has a sexual intimacy with him. Here, Belle's reason in her decision to have a sexual relationship with Santos is her great love to him. It can be seen in the following narration:

After they climax, they lay side by side on her bed... Oh, she wants to make love to this man until they disintegrate... For she really has fallen in love for the first time in her life... But Belle knows that whatever happens to her now, Santos Devine will be the love of her life (Blake, 2012: 261).

From the quotation above, it is described that Belle has a sexual relationship with Santos Devine. Moreover, Belle is willing to always have a sexual intercourse with Santos until they are separated and both of them die. Here, the reason why Belle behaves like this is because she loves him. Even, Santos becomes Belle's first love in her life.

#### 4.2.2 Sexual Desire

In the novel, it is told Belle never feels this desire during her marriage with Signor Brzezinska. It is because she never loves him. Hence, Belle wants to be a prostitute in order to feel and share her sexual desire by doing sexual activities with other people. For the first time, her playing as a prostitute is happened accidentally. When she passes the canal she meets the young man that assumes Belle is indeed prostitute who looks for her client. She accepts his offer to have sex since she begins to sense a feeling that she never feels before. It is shown in the following narration:

She might still walk away. Yet at the same time as her doubt, another emotion emerged: a sense of power she hadn't felt since before she got married... 'Over there'... indicating a tiny alcove on the other side of the bridge, barely visible from the street (Blake, 2012: 33-34).

From the quotation above, it is known that Belle can give the young man's money back and refuse an offer to please him. Yet, she feels an emotion that she never feels since she married. This emotion is her desire to have sex. Hence, finally, she accepts a young man's request to have a sexual activity together.

The other evidence which proves that sexual desire becomes Belle's motive to have sex is when Santos takes her photographs. It is shown as the quotation; "*He kisses her lips, and she feel her nipples erect, her body softening, craving him. She wants him to make love to her on this roof terrace. She doesn't care who sees them*" (Blake, 2012: 321). From this quotation, it can be seen that Santos kisses Belle's lips. Moreover, Santos's kissing causes Belle feels her nipples erect. Here, Belle's erecting nipples shows that her sexual desire is aroused. Furthermore, this desire drives Belle to have a sexual activity with him.

### 4.3 Valentina's Sexual Purposes

There are three kinds of Valentina's sexual purposes; these are to feel sexual pleasure, emotional satisfaction, and also to have a baby from Theo.

#### 4.3.1 To Feel Sexual Pleasure

Valentina wants to feel a sexual pleasure from her sexual activity with her lover, Theo. The evidence is shown by the occasion when Valentina and Theo just woke up. Before Theo really goes away on a job, Valentina wants to make love with him. It is quoted as the following narration:

He pulls back ever so slowly, and as he suddenly rams back into her, she can't help gasping slightly. She joins him in force, thrusting back with all her might, and they become one throbbing entity. She closes her eyes, relaxing at last. This is what she needs. Complete abandonment (Blake, 2012: 23).

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Valentina has a sexual activity with Theo. Valentina is really enjoys her sex. It is shown by her action which she closes her eyes to relax a satisfaction of her sex. In addition, based on the quotation above, it is also known that the thing that Valentina needs from having sex with her lover is a perfect sexual satisfaction. Then, finally she gets it. By seeing these explanations, it is proven that Valentina decides to have a sexual intercourse with Theo because she wants to feel a sexual pleasure from her sexual intercourse with him.

#### **4.3.2 To Feel Emotional Satisfaction**

In the novel, achieving and feeling emotional satisfaction becomes Valentina's purpose of doing a sexual activity with her lover. It can be seen from Valentina's thought when she has argued with Theo. It is known by the following narration:

Maybe she does have time to make love before she has to go to work. She is aching to feel him inside her. The morning's conversation has made her feel unsettled. She knows that if they make love it will calm her down (Blake, 2012: 21).

In the morning when Valentina and Theo just woke up, they argue each other. Their arguing makes Theo is angry. Here, Theo's anger causes Valentina feels guilty to him. Then, by seeing the narration above, it can be seen that Valentina wants to snatch her times to have sex with Theo. She wants throw away her guilty towards Theo. Hence, she wants to do a sexual intercourse with him in order to make her feels comfort again. She believes that making love can give her and Theo a satisfaction which makes them become calm.

#### **4.3.3 To Have a Baby from Theo**

In her sexual relationship with Theo, Valentina wants a baby from him. Yet, she does not admit it. It is shown by the following narration:

It is one week since she lost the baby, and still she is refusing to talk to him... *Tell me how you feel*. Yet she couldn't tell him, because she didn't want him to know the truth, that she had wanted his baby (Blake, 2012: 447).

By seeing the quotation above, it is known that Valentina experiences a miscarriage. In this case, actually, Valentina wants to have a baby from Theo. She wants an ancestry from her beloved man. Yet, in other hand, she never tells about her longing to him.

#### 4.4 Belle's Sexual Purposes

Belle has two kinds of sexual purposes; these are to feel sexual pleasure from her sexual activities and emotional satisfaction from her sexual intimacy with Santos Devine.

##### 4.4.1 To Feel Sexual Pleasure from Her Sexual Activities

The proof which shows Belle's purpose to get and feel a sexual pleasure in doing a sexual activity is when she does sexual intercourse with Santos Devine. The following quotation shows Belle's purpose to feel a sexual pleasure from him:

Risking scandal, losing everything, but it is worth it. To experience this intensity of passion...When Santos pushes into her, she cannot help but gasp in awe. Sex has never felt like this before. It has been pleasurable, exciting and erotic, but this feeling is all of those sensations and more (Blake, 2012: 260).

From the narration above, it can be seen that Belle wants to feel a sexual pleasure from her sex with Santos. Belle's permission for him to make love to her becomes her way to get a sexual pleasure. Furthermore, finally, Belle gets and feels a sexual pleasure that she wants. It is proven by Santos that pushes his penis inside her vagina. It makes her sighs and gasps in enjoying a pleasure of her sex with him. She feels an exciting and an erotic pleasure that she never feels from her husband and other men before.

##### 4.4.2 To Feel Emotional Satisfaction from Her Intimacy with Santos Devine

In the novel, it is told Belle wants to feel happiness as an emotional satisfaction of her sexual intimacy with Santos. Her unhappy marriage with Signor Brzezinska gives a grief in her life. Belle wants to throw away all of her grief by having sex with her lover, Santos Devine. It is shown by the narration; *"Oh, she wants to make love to this man until they disintegrate...and this night is filled with joy"* (Blake, 2012: 261). From this quotation, it is known that Belle wants to always have sexual intercourse with Santos Devine until they die. Here, her purpose in having sexual activity with him is to forget all of her grief which she gets from her married relationship with Signor Brzezinska. She wants to feel a great enjoyment in her life by having a sexual intercourse with her true love, Santos.

#### 4.5 Valentina's Sexual Activities

##### 4.5.1 Doing Sexual Intercourse

In the novel, sexual intercourse is done by Valentina when she has a sexual activity with her lover, Theo. This kind of Valentina's sexual activity is known by the quotation; *"His erect penis pushes against her pelvis and she is craving him, aching to feel him within her....he lifts her up and pushes into her"* (Blake, 2012: 22). From this quotation, it can be seen that Valentina does a sexual intercourse with Theo. It is known by Theo's action which he pushes his erect penis inside Valentina's vagina. This occasion in which involves Theo's and Valentina's genitals and their pelvic movements proves that Valentina does a sexual intercourse with her lover, Theo.

#### 4.5.2 Experiencing Erotic Touches

An erotic touch is experienced by Valentina when she takes the photographs of Celia and Rosa for her project. It is showed by the following quotation:

She freezes, unable to step away as the sensation of Celia's touch begins to affect her. Celia tiptoes her fingers all the way to the top of Valentina's legs, and pushes one of her hands underneath her panties. Valentina is trapped...and she can feel herself beginning to throb inside (Blake, 2012: 152).

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Celia gives touches to Valentina. Moreover, Celia continues to take her fingers to Valentina's legs and pushes one of her hands beneath Valentina's panties. Here, Celia begins to massage Valentina's vagina tenderly. By seeing these explanations, it is known that Celia touches Belle's erogenous zone; thigh, and genital; vagina. Moreover, the sensation of Celia's touches make Valentina's desire is aroused. It is shown by Valentina's behavior which she feels a pulsation inside herself when Celia touches her body.

#### 4.5.3 Kissing

A sexual activity of kissing is experienced by Valentina with Theo at the first time they meet on the metro. It is quoted as this narration; "*he picked up her gloved hand in his and swung her around to face him. His lips found hers in a perfect screen kiss*" (Blake, 2012: 82). Based on this quotation, it is described that Theo invites Valentina to do a kissing. Theo pulls Valentina towards himself, then without any words for permission he suddenly puts his lips on her lips. Hence, they begin to kissing. By seeing these explanations, it is proven that Valentina gets a kiss from Theo.

#### 4.5.4 Doing Oral-Fellatio and Experiencing Oral-Cunnilingus

Oral-fellatio sex is done by Valentina to Leonardo when she lost in their game of hide and seek. It can be known as the following quotation:

'Pleasure me,' he growls. She licks the whole length of him with her tongue, and then pivots it around the top of his penis. She can feel him stirring, responding to her touch. She takes his length out of her mouth and strokes him with her hand, squeezing him tightly before pushing him back inside her mouth again (Blake, 2012: 340).

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Valentina pleasures Leonardo by doing sex orally to him. She licks the whole of Leonardo's penis by her tongue. . Moreover, Valentina not only licks Leonardo's penis but also sucks it. The occasion in which Valentina licks and sucks Leonardo's penis into her mouth proves that she does a sexual activity of fellatio to him.

Oral-cunnilingus is experienced by Valentina when she takes the photographs of Celia and Leonardo. It is shown by the narration; "*She puts her hand between Valentina's legs and pulls them apart, and before Valentina can think, she feels Celia's tongue inside her. She gasps, with surprise, with pleasure*" (Blake, 2012: 219). From this quotation, it can be known that Celia does cunnilingus sex to Valentina. It is proven by her action which she pushes her tongue inside Valentina's clitoris and licks

it. This occasion in which Celia pushes and licks Valentina's genital, clitoris, with her tongue proves that Valentina experiences a sexual activity of cunnilingus sex from her.

#### 4.5.5 Doing Masturbation

A sexual activity of masturbation is done by Valentina when she imagines sexual intercourse which she and Theo do in the stud room. It is showed by the quotation; *"She pushes her fingers inside her G-string. She sees Theo in her head, and imagines it is his finger touching her...she takes herself further and further"* (Blake, 2012: 47). By seeing this narration, it is known that Valentina pushes her fingers inside her tight. Moreover, she pushes and rubs it with her finger. Here, it is described that she does masturbation by stimulating her private genital in which is her vagina.

### 4.6 Belle's Sexual Activities

#### 4.6.1 Doing Sexual Intercourse

A sexual activity of sexual intercourse is done experienced by Belle with some different men. This quotation shows Belle does sexual intercourse with the Russian, is quoted as *"The Russian pushes into her with a low moan, and holds on to her breasts...he holds her waist with both hands and grinds into her, going further and further"* (Blake, 2012: 102). From this quotation, it is described that Belle pleasures her client, the Russian, by doing sexual intercourse. In their sexual activity, the Russian that initiates to do a sexual intercourse. It is proven by his action which he thrusts his penis inside Belle's vagina. Furthermore, he holds Belle's waist and pushes his penis faster and deeper inside her vagina. It is proven that the occasion which involves the movement of the Russian's penis in and out of Belle's vagina shows that Belle does sexual intercourse with the Russian.

#### 4.6.2 Experiencing Erotic Touches

Erotic touch is experienced by Belle when the Doctor visits her. It can be known by the following quotation:

The Doctor takes his time, massaging every part of her, from the tip of her chin to arms, hands and fingers, to her breast and stomach, the tops of her legs, her calves, feet and toes...she moans into her pillow, unable to speak (Blake, 2012: 75).

By seeing the quotation above, it can be seen that the Doctor gives touches to Belle by massaging every part of her body. The Doctor begins to massage Belle's chin, arms, hands, fingers, and erogenous zone; stomach. Then, he continues to massage her breast which is described Belle's genitals. Furthermore, the Doctor also massages Belle's legs, calves, feet and toes. Moreover, the Doctor's touches make Belle's desire is aroused. It is proven by the sentence of the narration above, "she moans into her pillow, unable to speak" which is described that Belle feels and enjoys a sexual satisfaction of the Doctor's touches on her erogenous zone and genital.

#### 4.6.3 Kissing

In the novel, this kind of sexual activity is experienced by Belle when she walks out the campo with Santos Devine. In this occasion, she gets a kiss from her lover. It

is known by the narration; “*he removes his finger from her lips, leans down and kisses her tenderly. She kisses him back hungrily*” (Blake, 2012: 187). From this quotation, it is shown that Santos gives Belle a kiss. Here, a kissing between both of them is begun by Santos. Furthermore, Belle kisses Santos back passionately as her response of his kiss. It is proven that Belle does a kiss with Santos.

#### **4.6.4 Doing Oral-Fellatio**

In the novel, it is told Belle does a sexual activity of fellatio to the First Mate. This Belle’s sexual activity can be seen by the following narration:

She lifts her hands as if prayer and strokes the First Mate’s penis before guiding it into her mouth. She hears his groan of satisfaction as she flicks her tongues around its end...Oh yes, she hears him say...she coaxes what is inside her mouth (Blake, 2012: 126).

From the author’s narration above, it is known that Belle strokes, and then licks the First Mate’s penis with her tongue. She also takes his penis inside her mouth and sucks it. Here, it is known that Belle stimulates the First Mate’s penis orally by licking and sucking his penis. By seeing these explanations, it is proven that Belle does fellatio to the First Mate.

## **CONCLUSION**

After analyzing the source of data, Evie Blake’s *Valentina*, based on the research problems, this study concludes that her love to Francesco and Theo, her curiosity of sadomasochism, and her sexual desire become Valentina’s sexual motives to have sexual activities. Meanwhile, Belle’s sexual motives are her love to Santos Devine and her sexual desire.

Valentina and Belle also have their own purposes which they want to achieve in her sexual intimacy with their partners. Valentina’s sexual purposes are to feel sexual pleasure, emotional satisfaction, and to have a baby from Theo. Meanwhile, Belle’s sexual purposes are to feel sexual pleasure from her sexual activities and to feel emotional satisfaction from her intimacy with Santos Devine.

Furthermore, there are several kinds of sexual activities that Valentina and Belle do and experience with their own partners. Here, Valentina does and experiences five kinds of sexual activities; sexual intercourse, erotic touches, kissing, oral-fellatio and oral-cunnilingus, and also masturbation. Meanwhile, Belle does and experiences four kinds of sexual activities; sexual intercourse, erotic touches, kissing, and oral-fellatio.

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