

THE PORTRAYAL OF MAIN CHARACTER'S PERSISTENT DEPRESSION AS
PICTURED IN *THE WAY I USED TO BE* BY AMBER SMITH

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Abstract

The Way I Used to Be is a young adult novel written by Amber Smith, an American author. This novel tells about a fourteen years old girl, Eden McCrorey, who has been raped by her brother's friend when she sleeps. From this study, the writer found two problems, namely symptoms and factors of persistent depression experienced by the main character. There are four symptoms experienced by the main characters include persistent feelings of sadness and hopelessness, a lack of interest in daily activities, poor self-esteem and a negative attitude. There is one factors persistent depression experienced by the main character which is stressful or traumatic life events that consists of sexual abuse, physical abuse, and verbal abuse. In this study, the writer used the theory of psychology of literature by Wellek and Warren (1984) in Emir (2016) and helped by theory from pure psychology that discuss depression, Legg (2018). The method in this research is using qualitative method and is conducting this research is a close reading technique from Jacobus (2002). The results are the data from the symptoms of persistent depression which most experienced by the main character is a negative attitude. A negative attitude occurs in every school year experienced by the main character and has become a habit of her life. The data from factors persistent depression experienced by the main characters are sexual abuse and verbal abuse where the two factors have the same amount of data. Sexual abuse and verbal abuse are a major influence in the life of the main character that triggers symptoms of persistent depression experienced by the main character. The symptoms and the factors of persistent depression make her losing control of her life that makes her trapped into negative activities. She becomes wild girl and has unstable emotion. Also, she has ever thought to die.

Keywords: Persistent Depression, Symptoms, Factors

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