THE CHARACTERISTICS OF PEDOPHILIA REFLECTED THROUGH HUMBERT HUMBERT IN VLADIMIR NABOKOV’S LOLITA

AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS
Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Sarjana Sastra in English Letters

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A Sarjana Sastra Undergraduate Thesis

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Dr. Fransiskus Xaverius Siswadi M.A.
As soon as we think we are safe, something unexpected happens.

(Buddha)

You must be careful. There are things that should never be given up. You must persevere.

(Vladimir Nabokov)
For my family,
especially the sisters
LEMBAR PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN

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(Ida Ayu Melati)
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ABSTRACT


Humbert Humbert, the main character in Vladimir Nabokov’s Lolita, tends to like underage girls. Somebody who has penchant for underage girls can be suspected as a pedophile. This study reflected the characteristics of pedophilia through Humbert, because the readers may absorb knowledge and understanding about human’s life from a literary work.

There are two problems formulated in this analysis. First is how the main character, Humbert, is described in the story. The second is what Humbert’s characteristics revealed of being a pedophile.

The writer used the psychological approach in analyzing the formulated problems by doing several steps. The first step was by conducting a close reading on the novel and formulating the problems based on the topic. The second step was by collecting data and theories. The writer used library research in this study to get references which are necessary in this study. The data are taken from books, articles, journals, other studies on the work, and secondary references were from the internet and encyclopedias. The next step was analyzing the work by applying the related theories. The last step was the conclusion of the whole analysis.

Humbert can be seen as a pedophile, which was revealed by seeing the characteristics and the justification of a pedophile act and deeds. The characteristics of pedophilia that can be revealed are long term persistent pattern of behavior that results in jealousy, children as preferred sexual object and well-developed techniques obtaining victim as the reflection of Humbert’s possessive, sexual fantasy to disguise his sex obsession toward children, and maintain a facade resulting in negative courage.
ABSTRAK


Terdapat dua rumusan masalah dalam penelitian ini. Permasalahan pertama adalah bagaimana karakter Humbert dideskripsikan di dalam cerita. Permasalahan kedua, ialah ciri-ciri apa saja yang merefleksikan pedofilia di dalam diri Humbert.


Humbert bisa dikatakan sebagai seseorang yang pedofil dari pembenaran sifat-sifat dan perilakunya. Pembenaran hasil dari analisis tersebut menunjukkan bahwa Humbert bisa dilihat sebagai seorang pedofil karena sifat-sifat pedofilia yang ada pada diri Humbert ialah pola persisten dalam jangka panjang yang mengakibatkan Humbert sebagai orang yang cemburu, melihat anak-anak sebagai objek, dan memiliki cara untuk memperoleh korban yang menunjukkan sifat posesif, fantasi seksual yang menunjukkan obsesi seksualnya terhadap anak-anak, dan mempertahankan cara pandangnya yang mengakibatkan keberanian akan perbuatan yang negatif.
A. Background of Study

Even though this study is about pedophilia in a novel, the writer’s purpose shall not be misinterpreted as judging pedophiles and their ways of life. Each character’s behavior in the literary works may refer to the psychology of human beings (Rohrberger and Woods, 1971: 3-13). Therefore, the activities of reading a literary work would inspire the readers to understand the characteristics and behavior of a person. Reading a literary work certainly would lead the readers to understand and learn about the phenomena embodied in a work. This study is more to see what has been understood about pedophiles based on psychological subject through Humbert, the main character in Vladimir Nabokov’s Lolita.

Vladimir Nabokov with his pen name Vladimir Sirin was born in St. Petersburg, Russia in 1899. He grew up in a rich, highly cultivated, and strongly liberal family. He completed his studies at Trinity College, Cambridge and between 1923 and 1940 he published novels, short stories, plays, poems, and translations in the Russian language, one of his translations was Lewis Carroll’s Alice in Wonderland. In 1955 he published Lolita, his best known novel which shocked many people because of the story, its humor and literary style which were praised by critics. Lolita’s first version was written in 1939 in Paris and titled The
Enchanter. It took six years before Nabokov finished Lolita (kirjasto.sci.fi/nabokov.htm).

The novel which is used in this study, Lolita, shocked many people because the story tells about a character named Humbert Humbert who tends to like underage girls and called them as nymphets; beautiful and fresh. Although Humbert had penchant for female juveniles, he also had relationships with adult women.

Somebody who has penchant for female juveniles can be suspected to be a pedophile, one of the most common types of paraphilia. Paraphilia is a condition in which a person’s sexual arousal and gratification depend on fantasizing about and engaging in sexual behavior that is typical and extreme. It can revolve around a particular object such as children, animal, underwear, or around a particular act such as inflicting pain, exposing oneself. Other most common types are exhibitionism; exposure of genitals to strangers, voyeurism; observing private activities of unaware victims, and fetishism; use of inanimate object. Most paraphilias are far more common in men than in women (Getzfeld, 134: 2006).

In addition, paraphilia was first identified by a German psychiatrist named Richard Von Krafft-Ebing in his book titled Psychopathia Sexualis (Sexual Psychopathy). This highly influential psychiatric text laid the groundwork for the development of researches and treatments in further psychology. Although new studies were developed, the study of paraphilia is still evolving (http://www.forensicpsychiatry.ca/paraphilia/overview.htm).
Humbert’s pedophilia is implied in the description and narration. Therefore, the reader may find that Humbert, from the first impression, is somehow a kind and caring person without any paraphilia, which contradicts to Freud statement that sexual desire could not be controlled or channeled without causing harm to one’s psyche (Thurschwell, 2009: 46).

Leech, in his book *Style in Fiction*, stated that such impression was determined by the exposure to a character’s point of view that led to a character’s identification and the character’s values. It can be seen that there’s an inevitable association between shared experience, understanding, sympathy, and shared values between the narrator and the reader (1981: 275).

Nabokov, however, had another idea. He stated that a fiction existed if there was an ‘aesthetic bliss’, roughly saying, encompassing art, curiosity, etc. as the norm (2008: 358). Therefore, Humbert who can be suspected as a pedophile seems to look innocent because of Leech’s statement in *Style in Fiction*, or as an unpleasant person based on Freud’s statement. Based on this contradiction, the writer in the analysis will present, first, Humbert’s characterization, and second, characteristics of pedophilia. From this two, the writer will step to the analytical point regarding the topic chosen, which is the embodiment of pedophilia characteristics in the main character.

The writer realizes that the topic is worth to study, especially for someone or whoever is eager to learn about the life, thought, and feelings of a pedophile through literature. It is possible for someone to learn something from literature because through reading literature somebody can develop their life without having
a great deal of experience, although the general interest of reading literature is for an amusement (Grace, 1965: 7).

The development of somebody’s life without having a great deal of experience is possible when the reader compares the problems that appear in real life with a literary work which has a similar conflict. Furthermore it includes learning and comprehending the characteristics of the characters in a literary work (Henkle, 1977: 86).

With the aim to have a strong understanding about characters, the writer took the psychological perspective in analyzing this study because this subject studies behavior and its motives, motive which determines behavior and experience. In its scope, all behavior is included, whether that of an individual adult, adolescent, infant, insane person, animal, or group of people (Ross, 1958: 9).

B. Problem Formulation

To limit the scope of the study, the writer has formulated two problems. They are listed as follows.

1. How is the main character, Humbert, described in the story?
2. What do Humbert’s characteristics revealed being a pedophile?

C. Objectives of Study

The aim of the study is basically to study the life of the main character Humbert Humbert by answering the questions which are already stated in the problem formulation. The first objective is to describe the main character and about his significant role through what he says, thinks, and does. The second
objective is to examine the characteristics of pedophilia which are shown through Humbert’s characteristics. Over all of those objectives, the main purpose of this study is for a better understanding toward a person with a psychosexual disorder, especially, pedophilia by analyzing the chosen literary work.

D. Definition of Terms

It is important to know the definition of the terms which is used in this study in order to be able to understand its content. It is meant to avoid misunderstandings toward specific technical terms. The writer provides the definition of prominent terminologies, which is taken from a reliable source. Pedophilia.

According to Getzfeld, pedophilia is a part of paraphilia, psychosexual disorder, a sickness which involves sexual activity, not necessarily intercourse, with a prepubescent child. The fantasy or actual act of engaging in sexual activity with prepubescent children is the preferred or exclusive means of achieving sexual excitement and gratification (2006: 147).
CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL REVIEW

A. Review of Related Studies

Literary works, which cannot be separated from readers, are open for many different kinds of responses. Many kinds of responses of the readers toward literary works are bearing some criticisms. Wellek and Warren are known as literary critics who have published literary criticism books. In *Theory of Literature*, the criticisms can be in form of appreciation, analysis, comment or judgment, and either objective or subjective suggestion (1978:336).

The first criticism is *The Rhetoric of Fiction* by Wayne Booth. Based on his study, Nabokov’s style allows the reader to make their own opinions about the story and not wondering about what message or opinion the author actually wants to say.

There is an implied reader between the reader and the work, so there is what he has called an Implied Author between the author and the text. Otherwise we would have to ascribe automatically the views expressed through a work to the author himself. But the fact that the seducer, Humbert Humbert is given sympathetic treatment in *Lolita* does not allow us to infer that the writer, Nabokov, approves of men who take advantage of young girls (Booth, 1981: 258).

Because the reader cannot find the author’s point of view, but the narrator’s, the reader can give sympathy to a character that took advantage of young girls and was a seducer.

The second review is taken from McNeely’s study. The research of Trevor McNeely is *Lo’ and Behold: Solving the Lolita Riddle*. This critical argument
shows that *Lolita* can be divided into two categories: the first is the story based on aesthetics and the second based on the importance of the character. In stating these two categories there are two purposes, one, is by showing the reader that in the story there is an aesthetic matter in Humbert’s character development, and the other one is to avoid presumption that the main character of the story symbolizes support for pedophile rights.

Trevor McNeely divides critical argument on *Lolita* into two categories: that based on aesthetics and that based on character… Those wishing to promote *Lolita* as a great literary work on the basis of Humbert’s moral (character) development, for the matter, face an uphill struggle in avoiding implicit support for pedophile rights ([http://www.armand-colin.com/upload/Introduction_Lolita.pdf](http://www.armand-colin.com/upload/Introduction_Lolita.pdf)).

The writer, on the other hand, does not emphasize the analysis on the style of Nabokov’s fiction or the aesthetics or importance of the character. However, the writer defines the characteristics of the main character, Humbert, and the pedophilia’s characteristics, which can be seen through the main character’s acts either with Lolita or the other underage girls.

**B. Review of Related Theories**

Theories are needed as the tools to analyze the work of the analysis. There will be two main theories. The first theory is the theory of character and characterization, the second is the theory of pedophilia, and the last is the theory on the relation between psychology and literature.

1. **Theory of Character and Characterization**

   The reader can find a person who is described in every literary work. The person who is described in a literary work such as drama, prose, or poetry is the
character. Based on *Mastering English Literature* by Richard Gill, there is an important distinction between character and characterization. According to Gill, a character is a person in the literary work while characterization is the way in which a character is created. The characters in books are not real people but figures, since the characters have been created by the author. The author build character’s personality, select and put them together so that the reader will react to the character in a similar way will they do to real people (1995: 127-128).

Gill clarifies some aspects in studying the character, which are based on the way the character speaks and thinks. The reader can make a judgment of a certain character by paying attention to them. The way the character speaks and thinks can be seen through certain repeated words or phrases, or relying upon common sayings and proverbs, and how the character's mind approaches problems or challenges (1995: 127).

Another aspect in studying the character is the appearance. Appearance is how the character looks from the surface (ranks, establishment, wealth, social status, etc.). Social status itself can be seen by the character’s employment, dress, education, sometimes name, and so on. Appearance is a way to get the first impression of the character, and to delve deeper to understand more about the character, one shall see the character’s acts—what he does, his or her action-reaction, etc (Gill, 1995: 129).

Murphy in *Understanding Unseens: an Introduction to English Poetry and the English Novel for Overseas Students* (1972: 171) clarifies nine ways in which an author can be representing the characterization of characters in literary works.
a. **Personal description**, the author can describe a character by using the appearance and clothes. The readers will get only a visible look of a character, like parts of the body of the character and the clothes he or she wears.

b. **Character as seen by another**, the author can describe a character through the view, opinions, attitudes, and comments of other characters. The reader will get a reflected image of the characters and the author’s way of charactering the characters.

c. **Speech**, the author can describe a character by giving readers an insight into the characteristics through the way he or she speaks and the language he or she uses. The reader is enabled to make an analysis based on the character’s dialogues or utterances.

d. **Past life**, the author can provide a clue to events that help to shape characteristics by giving the readers the character’s past life. This is quite helpful to analyze the motives that the character has when he has particular characteristics or does something special.

e. **Conversation of others**, the author can provide a clue about a certain character through the conversation with other characters and what they say about her or him. Readers will know what others say about a character may reveal what kind of characters her or he is.

f. **Reaction**, the author can describe characteristics by showing how character responds to various situations and events. The reaction may give a clue to what characteristics a character has.
g. **Direct comment**, the author may give comments and descriptions on the characteristics of the character directly to readers. This becomes the best way for the readers to visualize the characteristics because they know what exactly the author wants to reveal.

h. **Thought**, the author gives readers direct knowledge of what a person is thinking about. There, she or he can tell readers what different people are thinking about. Such thing cannot be seen but can be represented through the speech and attitudes. The readers then are in privileged position; they have a secret listening device plugged in the inmost thoughts of a character in a novel.

i. **Mannerism**, the author can characterize a character through the mannerisms, habits, or idiosyncrasies.

Without first knowing the character, a literary analysis that involves character of the analyzed literary work will not be effective, because before proceeding to the real topic of discussion, one has to identify how the character is characterized in the work. Even if a character is a fictional reflection of a real person, one must start from the character first instead of the latter, inasmuch there is a literary analysis and not one’s biography.

In the analysis, in order to explain Humbert’s pedophilia, the writer highlighted important psychological characteristics and behavior of a pedophile. Those pedophile’s characteristics and behavior were cited from four different kind of academic writings, which are from Getzfeld, SARC, Blanchard, and Halls.
2. Theory of Pedophilia

The writer took the theory of pedophilia mainly from *Essentials of Abnormal Psychology* by Andrew Getzfeld, an associate psychology professor in New Jersey City University who had written two textbooks on abnormal psychology. In this book, Getzfeld provides the major topics of abnormal psychology as well as chapters on the leading categories of disorders.

Getzfeld states that pedophilia is a psychosexual disorder in which the fantasy or actual act of engaging in sexual activity with prepubescent children is the preferred or exclusive means of achieving sexual excitement and gratification. There are some other psychosexual disorders which are: nonhuman objects (such as phallicshaped objects), and the suffering or the humiliation of one’s partners (sadism or masochism). All this disorders together can be said as paraphilia (2006: 139).

A person can be said as a pedophile, as listed in *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, when the person is at least 16 years old and 5 years older than the victim. The child itself is typically aged 13 or younger. A person with pedophilia is involved in a sexual activity with the pubescent child, but it is not necessarily intercourse.

Pedophilia involves sexual activity (not necessarily intercourse) with the pubescent child. The DSM-IV-TR states that the child is typically age 13 or younger. The pedophile must be at least 16 and must be at least 5 years older than the child or children, and he or she must either have acted on these sexual urges or have been very distressed by them. Usually pedophiles are attracted to children who fall within a specific age range. Some prefer males some females, and some both (Getzfeld, 2006: 141).
When pedophiles are caught, they may say that the victim have asked for their relationship. They may even rationalize the reason and the story. Pedophiles may also state that the sexual activity that has happened is to educate the child about sex, without harm.

Pedophiles will explain their behavior when caught (as they rarely voluntarily seek or enter treatment) by stating their behaviors have educational value for the child or that the child is somehow deriving sexual pleasure from the behaviors. They may even rationalize that the child was sexually provocative and thus was asking for it (Getzfeld, 2006: 141).

When the victim or the child does not know or realize about the pedophiles action, the pedophiles will attempt to lure in children by nonviolent means. Usually a pedophile really understands a child’s need and tries to fulfill everything the child needs to show loyalty, love, and to make the child comfortable and pleasant. Children have an insatiable need for care and attention and pedophiles use it to abuse them. Often, they relate to children, easily gaining their trust and friendship and befriend parents because of their masters at verbal manipulation. The pedophile may try to win the child’s mother’s heart too to be near the child and doing his/her act (sexual intercourse or just to image it). It is possible that a pedophile may marry the mother of the child.

Pedophiles will attempt to lure in children by nonviolent means if they do not know them. They may try win the trust of the child’s mother, perhaps even marry the child’s mother, or take in foster children. In extreme instances, they may abduct children. The pedophile may also threaten the child in order to ensure that no disclosure of his activities occurs. The pedophile is usually very attentive to the child’s needs so that trust, loyalty, and affection are gained (Getzfeld, 2006: 142).

Ryan and Richard C.W. Hall in A Profil of Pedophilia: Definition, Characteristics of Offenders, Recidivism, Treatment Outcomes, and Forensic
Issues said that a pedophile come from all social classes and they may be young or old, male or female. Their intelligence varies and their common feature is an abnormal sexual interest in children, although they may not desire children exclusively. About 50% are married and some are also attracted to other age-appropriate adults and the more commonly name for a pedophile is a child molester (http://www.wingsfortruth.info/whatisapedophile.pdf).

Many pedophiles begin with fantasizing and wondering if they can make their fantasies come true in real life. A pedophile may choose vulnerable children, those from divorced homes and children who are emotionally needy or unhappy, and the quiet ones. They also target children from certain types of families such as single-parented children, home alone-typed children, and who are less educated. Ryan and Richard Hall said that the reason why a pedophile chooses vulnerable children is because:

a. A pedophile experience feelings of inferiority, isolation, loneliness, low self-esteem, and emotional immaturity.
b. Their attraction to children usually began when they were adolescents, but may develop later in life.
c. They are impulsive, have difficulty in controlling their behavior and resisting their urges.
d. They have poor communication skills, lack empathy, may be socially retarded, have difficulty forming close relationships.
e. Feel they are inherently “different”, by fate, default, or circumstances out of their control and responsibility.
f. Maintain a facade or “front” for the world to see; divide the world into me and them (http://www.wingsfortruth.info/whatisapedophile.pdf).

The following are four major characteristics that are typical, which were asserted by Sexual Assault Response Center, or SARC. The writer took from SARC’S official website, and SARC itself was first established in September 1977, as a part of the Mid-Columbia Mental Health Center.

a. **Long term persistent pattern of behavior**, which are limited social contact as a teenagers, frequent and unexpected moves, planned, repeated, or high-risk attempts.

b. **Children as preferred sexual object**, usually a pedophile lives alone, limited dating relationships if not married, age and gender preference, and refers to children as “clean”, “pure”, “innocent”, “impish”, etc, if married or have a special relationship with spouse a pedophile will marry someone who does not have high sexual expectations or need.

c. **Well-developed techniques obtaining victim**, which means a pedophile identifies with children (better than with adults), they can gain access to children, skilled at manipulating children, has hobbies and interests appealing children, and shows sexually explicit material to children.

d. **Sexual fantasies focusing on children**, which are youth-oriented decorations in house or room, photographing of children, and collecting child pornography or child erotica (http://www.sexualassaultresponsecenter.org/offenders_0.aspx).
The last theory of pedophilia is taken from *The DSM Diagnostic Criteria for Pedophilia* by Ray Blanchard, who is a member of the DSM-V Workgroup on Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders. He was named Head of Clinical Sexology Services in the Law and Mental Health Program of the CAMH, and serves as a Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto. Blanchard said that the variables of sexual experiences with children and sexual experiences with adults are influenced by many factors besides the patient’s preferences:

a. Sexual interaction with consenting adults is legal in most jurisdictions, whereas sexual interaction with children is criminal offense, whether the children are consenting or not.

b. Opportunities to meet adults and to be alone with adults in privacy are much greater than opportunities to meet (unrelated) children and to be alone with them.

c. Social pressures would tend to push pedophiles to experiment sexual with adults in hopes of finding them acceptable sexual partners, whereas social mores would tend to discourage anyone, pedophilic or not, from experimenting sexually with children.

d. Law and social norms would encourage pedophiles to make use of adults as “second-best” sexual outlets in place of children, but these factors discourage the use of children’s substitutes for adults (Blanchard, 2009: 5).

Blanchard said that a man who has erotic preference for children and who engages children sexually is a pedophile, regardless of his feelings about his situation, because sexual acts with children count as impairment. If a person does
not act on the fantasies or urges of pedophilia, he is not a pedophile. Furthermore, a person not distressed over the urges or fantasies and who just repeatedly masturbates to them has no disorder. On the other hand, if a person who is not distressed over them and has sexual contact with a child does have a mental disorder (Blanchard, 2009: 3-4).

In the next part of this chapter, the writer would like to highlight studies of experts of psychopathology, about the meaning of several human characteristics in order to give a prelude understanding about the main character, Humbert. The views of the characteristics that are taken are especially related to relationship between “man and woman”. There are four studies reviewed here, which help the writer to understand the characteristics better.

3. View on Jealous

Shauna Springer Ph.D from Clinical Psychology Associates of North Central Florida in her article titled *Jealousy is a Dangerous Sword* views that jealousy’s factor are comparison, competition, and the fear of being replaced. Jealousy can give a positive or negative effect to somebody. The negative effect or destructive forms of jealousy may stem from low self-esteem and insecurity which is further magnified by the real or imagined threat of losing the object of one’s affection. Issues of loss of a partner or family as well as loss of somebody’s closest bond can trigger anxiety as well depression ([http://cpancf.com/articles_files/jealousyinrelationships.asp](http://cpancf.com/articles_files/jealousyinrelationships.asp)).

Somebody feeling jealous is not always because of the loss of romantic love, since jealousy occurs in nonromantic relationships, it is not the loss of the
public appearance of a relationship, and since jealousy can occur if a partner is known to be attracted to another yet decides not to act on this attraction. Neu and Tov-Rauch (1980) in their hypothesis development said that one attractive characterization is that the threat of jealousy is the loss of another’s attention. They called this as ‘formative attention’ which is attention that sustains part of one’s self-concept (Salovey, 1991: 15-16).

4. View on Possessive

Dr. George Simon Ph.D in his article Possessive Thinking and the Disturbed Character said that a person who is possessive views others as primarily an object of pleasure, which means as a vehicle to get something that he or she wants, or a potential obstacle in the way of something he or she desires. It becomes almost impossible for the person to consider them as persons with rights, needs, boundaries, or desires of their own (http://counsellingresource.com/features/2008/12/10/possessive-thinking/).

5. View on Obsessive

Dean A. Haycock, Ph.D said that obsessive is an uncontrollable idea, thought, image, or emotion that a person cannot help thinking, even though it creates significant distress or anxiety. Typical obsession include fear and worry about leaving things in their proper order, scary images involving violent acts, and images of sexual acts. Somebody with obsessions may act in compulsive ways in largely futile attempts to relieve the anxiety associated with their unpleasant thought (http://www.minddisorders.com/Ob-Ps/Obsession.html#b).
6. View on Courageous

Courage refers to willingness for risk taking and movement forward in the presence of difficulties. Courage finds its expressions in our thoughts, feelings, and actions. Somebody cannot help but notice that the acts of courage are characterized by selflessness or other directedness (Yang, 2010: 4).

Jon Carlson, PsyD, EdD who is a professor of psychology and counseling in Governors State University said that there is a direct connection between courage and action in a socially responsible fashion. People with courage cooperate with others and are committed to social justice. Those who lack courage are engaged in dysfunctional living. Having courage leads to the ability to address the life tasks of work, love, and friendship (Yang, 2010: xvi).

7. The Relationship between Literature and Psychology

The theory of the relationship between literature and psychology is needed to support the study of pedophilia reflected in Humbert’s characters and to emphasize the value of this study.

Wellek and Warren in *Theory of Literature* said that there are four possibilities of understanding the psychological literature: first, is the study of the psychology of the author as a person or object; second, is the process of creative study; third, is the study of type and application of psychological conditions which are applied in a literary work; fourth, is the study of the effect that a literary work gives to the reader. This study used the third possibility of understanding. In certain cases, it is important to add artistic values on the knowledge of
psychology, because the knowledge supports the coherency of the complexities of the work (1978: 81).

Psychology is one possibility to improve and develop characterization in a literary work. Another possibility, through literature somebody can learn about psychological values or conditions of human even more suitably than through psychology itself (Wellek and Warren, 1978: 91-93).

C. Theoretical Framework

This part explains the contribution of the theories of the study. Theories are needed as the basic idea or concept to answer the problem formulation in previous chapter. There are three theories which are applied in this study. They are theory of character and characterization, theory of pedophilia, and theory of the relationship between literature and psychology.

The theory of character and characterization is used to describe the main character Humbert Humbert. The theory is suitable since the main character in the novel is the main focus of the discussion. The theory is needed to understand deeper about the character and to help explore more character’s qualities.

The theory of pedophilia is used to answer the second problem formulation. The theory helps the writer to understand more about the characteristics of a pedophile.

The third theory is the theory of the relationship between literature and psychology. This theory is needed to explain why this study uses a theory of psychology. It is used to support the theory of pedophilia, which is the focal point of this study. By using these theories, the writer is able to identify how the main
character described in the story and the psychological explanation of Humbert as a pedophilia.
CHAPTER III
METHODOLOGY

A. Object of the Study

The object of the study is a novel entitled *Lolita* written by a Russian born author, Vladimir Nabokov. This book is first issued in 1955 by an unorthodox Paris publisher after being rejected by a string of American publishers and banned by the French government and became Nabokov’s best known novel, which brought him worldwide fame. The subject of the story is about an affair between a middle-aged sexual pervert and a twelve-year old girl.

The narrator and the main character in this story was Humbert Humbert. He was a handsome man who tend to like underage girls and called them as nymphets; beautiful and fresh. Although Humbert had penchant for female juveniles, he also had relationships with adult women. One of them was Valeria who he decided to marry to, but their marriage lasted for three years. The reason of their divorce, as seen from the woman’s opinion, was because Humbert was boring and frustrating. She left him for another man and after their divorce; Humbert went to Ramsdale, America, as a lodger.

In Ramsdale, he stayed at a widow’s house named Mrs. Charlotte Haze who had a twelve-year-old daughter, Dolores Haze. When Humbert saw her daughter, he fell in love with her and called her Lolita. After Humbert received a love letter from Mrs. Haze, they both get married. Afterwards, Mrs. Haze died because an accident. Since her death, Humbert as Lolita’s stepfather took her with
Charlotte’s car around United States from one hotel to another. This journey of Lolita and Humbert became the core of the story, with Humbert’s love to Lolita as its climax.

When Lolita was fifteen years old she ran away from Humbert. At the age eighteen, she got married and was pregnant, and for the first time after three years, she sent Humbert a letter, because of her need of money. After Humbert gave her money and her mother’s car, Humbert asked Lolita to live with him and start a new life, but Lolita refused. Afterwards, Humbert killed a scenario writer who had raped Lolita when she was thirteen years old. Because of this action, Humbert was imprisoned. He died in legal captivity of coronary thrombosis and Lolita died in childbirth, giving birth to a still born girl.

B. Approach of Study

The main focus of Vladimir Nabokov’s *Lolita* in this study is Humbert’s narration of his life before, during, and after he knew Dolores Haze who Humbert called as Lolita. The approach that is applied in this study is psychological approach to analyze the main character’s characterization as a pedophile.

Psychological approach is to explain human motivation, personality, and behavior patterns written in literary object, therefore knowledge of psychology ground is important in order to understand the literary works (1971: 12). Psychological approach focuses on human psychology which helps us to analyze a literary work from the psychological point of view because it relates to human being’s behavior pattern and unconscious mind.
According to Guerin, psychological approach was the most controversial and least appreciated. Although this approach can be interesting and worthy since the proper purpose is to interpret the literary work and improve the writer’s understanding of literature. This approach helps the readers to analyze the characters’ condition and unconscious mind in the literary works (2011: 222).

Human psychology is clearly reflected in character’s behavior and state of mind. Since this study analyzes pedophilia as seen in Humbert’s character, it will not spare the character’s behavior and mental condition through which symptoms of pedophilia can be identified.

Each character’s behavior in the literary work may refer to the psychology of human beings (Rohrberger and Woods, 1971: 3-13). Therefore this approach is taken because the study is analyzing the psychological aspect of the main character in the novel

C. Method of the Study

The method that the writer uses in this study is the library research method, from which the writer obtained sources of information in books and articles. Library research is closely to and mostly related to the books; by collecting, and observing data and many kinds of information from the books or other written sources. The writer in doing the research took the data from books, journals, and articles from the internet—browsing the information from websites in order to get the relevant, valid, accurate, and appropriate data.

The object of the study is the novel *Lolita* and the writer has collected data to support the study taken from various sources such as the theory of pedophilia
by Andrew Getzfeld R., similar studies and commentaries from experts published in articles, and the approach of this study itself. The theories that are used in this study are character and characterization theory, pedophilia theory, and the relationship between literature and psychology to support the analysis. Those were taken and summed up from websites and books.

There were several steps done by the writer in doing this research. The first step was reading and understanding the novel. While knowing the story, the writer was looking for particular issues or idea that captivated the writer. After that, the writer examined the details of the novel to identify the intrinsic elements, especially the character.

The second step was deciding the topic of the study. It was continued by making the problem formulation followed by collecting the data to answer the problem formulation, which are the theories, views, and comments.

The third step was the analysis. In this step, the writer analyzed the novel by answering the questions in the problem formulation. The writer applied the knowledge that was gained from the prominent sources. First, the writer analyzed the intrinsic elements of the novel, which was the character. In order to identify the characteristics of the character, the theory of character and characterization by Richard Gill and Murphy is used. Murphy's theory was as a support for Gill’s deficiencies, such as ‘personal description’, ‘conversation of others’, and ‘thought’. To answer the second question, the writer used the theory of pedophilia. Mostly, the theory was taken from Andrew Getzfeld’s theory because
the writer considered his theory as the most suitable for this study, regarding its usefulness to understand better a pedophile and its symptoms.
CHAPTER IV
ANALYSIS

Regarding to the fact that there are two problems, the analysis is divided into two parts. The first part consists of the way the character of Humbert is described in the story and the second consists of how Humbert’s characteristics reflect the characteristics of a pedophile. The problem formulation would be studied separately using the theories which are written in the second chapter and its methodology in chapter three.

A. The Description of Humbert Humbert

Humbert Humbert as the main character of the story was born in 1910 in Paris. It was not difficult for Humbert to get education because he grew up in a wealthy family. Although Humbert’s mother died when he was a child, he grew up happily and was taken care by Aunt Sybil. Aunt Sybil is his mother’s elder sister whom a cousin of Humbert’s father had married.

Humbert as a little child did not really understand the miss of his mother. He was also not angry or confused while seeing his father with different kind of women, instead he was happy and he adored and respected and felt glad for his father whenever Humbert overheard the servants discussing his various lady-friends, which are beautiful and kind beings who concern much of Humbert. His father at this time was his role model and he was proud of him. Regarding to Humbert’s family background personal description, Humbert did not have any
sexual abuse in his childhood but live happily and normal like the other children did in Paris on the early nineteen’s.

On his pubertal age, Humbert was taught all information about sex by his father. Afterwards, his father sent him to a high school in Lyon, an industrial city in east-central France. He spent his life there for three years. Meanwhile, when his father on summer went touring to Italy with his new wife and daughter, Humbert for the first time felt disappointed.

Humbert did not understand why his father sent him to a high school which is far away from home. What he knew was that he felt alone. While Humbert was far away from home and live at the high school hostel, Humbert became a taciturn person who was not confident with himself.

When Humbert was a teenager, he had his first love affair with a girl named Annabel Leigh who was few months younger from him. They had beautiful and romantic dates that he could not forget. But when Annabel died because of typhus, Humbert felt a great frustration and shock. The following quotation shows Humbert’s thought as an adult person, about his miserable memory with Annabel.

I also know that the shock of Annabel’s death consolidated the frustration of that nightmare summer, made of it a permanent obstacle to any further romance throughout the cold years of my mouth (Nabokov, 2008: 12).

Through this quotation, it can be seen that Humbert has developed sexual obsession to young girls due to his brief love affair with Annabel. The failure relationship with Annabel also leads him as a person with low-self esteem.
As an intelligent and diligent person, it is not difficult for Humbert to get a job. He found a job as an English teacher for a group of adults in Auteuil and in a school for boys at winter. His work in writing was his prominent source of money. Humbert who shows interest to underage girls is not presented as a scary or weird man. A child would not normally become afraid when meeting him and adults would also not think about his interest in underage girls because of his profession and normal profile. Humbert’s quality that shows his interest with underage girls’ issue can be seen through the following quotation.

Hugh Broughton, a writer of controversy in the reign of James the First, has proved that Rahab was a harlot at ten years of age. This is very interesting, and I daresay you see me already frothing at the mouth in a fit; but no, I am not; I am just winking happy thoughts into a little tiddle cup (Nabokov, 2008: 18).

This quotation shows that Humbert realizes his interest might be wrong in the society, which leads him to find some justification that might helped him to feel confident with his abnormality.

Humbert was a picky person. Though Humbert was interested in young girls, Humbert was not interested in all young girls that he met, but there are several criteria until he called them as “nymphets”. In his opinion, young girls were interesting because they were fragile and had a natural beauty. On the other hand, he thought that adult women were ugly and not charming. Humbert fantasized that young girl between nine and fourteen resembled fairies, whose nature was not that of human being. The following quotation shows that Humbert was attracted to young girls at 9-14 years old, not only sexually, but also because of their beauty.
Within the same age limits the number of true nymphets is strikingly inferior to that of provisionally plain, or just nice, or “cute”, or even “sweet”, and “attractive”, ordinary, plumpish, formless, cold-skinned, essentially human little girls, with tummies and pigtails, who may or may not turn into adults of great beauty (Nabokov, 2008: 16).

This quotation emphasizes Humbert as a picky person, by showing his criteria of an underage girl who he might be interested.

Humbert’s interest in young girls was not only shown by his data about similar cases to feel self-confident, or his criteria which shows his picky personality, but also by his deed that shows he was a dreamer. An example, he took advantage of the acquaintances that he had formed among social workers and psychotherapists which visited reform schools and orphanages. There he can stare to those pubescent girls nearly and cover his fantasy (Nabokov, 2008: 15).

While studying in Paris, Humbert had a date with a young aged girl, Monique, and the truth of her age was untold because prostitute used to lie about their age in France. Humbert took Monique to date because her body was shaped under fifteen years old and according to Humbert, her body shape was a characteristic of a “nymphet”. Monique was a beginning of his experiment in searching pleasure with underage girls.

I was pretty well acquainted with the banal way of streetwalkers. They all answer “dix-huit”—a trim twitter, a note of finality and wistful deceit which they emit up to ten times per day, the poor little creatures. But in Monique’s case there could be no doubt she was, if anything, adding one or two years to her age. This is deduced from many details of her compact, neat, curiously immature body (Nabokov, 2008: 21-22).

This quotation shows that Humbert was represented as a lonely person who wanted a date, and he was confident and happy to be with a prostitute that seemed like an underage girl, although the true age was untold.
In 1935, Humbert decided to marry due to personal and social reasons. The personal reason was that he wanted someone to take care of him, because in a marriage there were regular hours, home-cooked meals, conventions of marriage, and bedroom activities, which in his opinion maybe can helped him to cure himself. The social reason was for his own safety, by looking on his age, and public’s opinion. He married a woman named Valeria, who attracted him because she gave Humbert a feel of her imitation of a childish behavior. Their marriage only lasted for three years. This quality can be seen through the following quotation.

Although I told myself I was looking merely for a soothing presence... what really attracted me to Valeria was the imitation she gave of a little girl. She gave it not because she had divined something about me; it was just her style—and I fell for it (Nabokov, 2008: 26).

This quotation shows, although Humbert was trying to be a normal civilized person by marrying somebody, the woman that he chose was still dependence to his interest with underage girls.

Humbert went to America after his divorce with Valeria. Besides the gloom of World War, his moving to US was because of his urge to attend a university in New York to complete his comparative history of French literature for English-speaking students. Humbert felt that his moving was something helpful to forget his failed marriage, which increased his low self-esteem because Valeria’s opinion that said, that Humbert was boring.

Humbert searched a place in the New England countryside to spend summer and to do his work. He asked for accommodation from a friend’s cousin named Mr. McCoo in Ramsdale by exchanging letters. Because Mr. McCoo’s
house had burned down, he suggested Humbert to live at Mrs. Charlotte Haze’s house. Charlotte offered to accommodate Humbert, and Humbert with his disappointment disposed. Mrs. Haze’s house was not his type, and he was not glad when he arrived. This quality can be seen through the following quotation.

I could not be happy in that type of household with bedraggled magazines on every chair and a kind of horrible hybridization between the comedy of so-called “functional modern furniture” and the tragedy of decrepit rockers and rickety lamp tables with dead lamps (Nabokov, 2008: 40).

This quotation shows that Humbert was a neat and orderly person, therefore, he was not happy to see Mrs. Haze’s household that was not maintained.

His thought of being unhappy in that house was changed when he met Mrs. Haze’s daughter. In Humbert’s opinion, she was beautiful and she reminded him to Annabel. Her name was Dolores Haze. Humbert who adored her called her Lolita as a love-nickname.

Even though Humbert told the readers that he liked young aged girls who he called as “nymphet”, without the experience with Lolita, Humbert’s pedophilia cannot be revealed. The experience of Humbert’s relationship with Lolita can be used to reveal Humbert’s pedophilia because during this relation, Humbert’s feeling and emotion are more explained and his behavior are more visible. Humbert began with fantasizing about Lolita and wondered if he could make those fantasies come true.

Lolita was a tomboy girl that had an insatiable need for care and attention, moreover from somebody that she could see as her father. She lost her father when she was a little child and she only grew up with her mother. According to her mother, Mrs. Haze, Lolita was not a kind-hearted child; she was a difficult
child, and she did not like to obey the rules. At school, her grades were poor, but she had interest in comics, likes to follow the trend in the society, and like to try new things; read magazines, and like to wear fashionable clothes. Lolita was a good target as a victim of a pedophile because she was a vulnerable child, comes from a single parent family, and was less educated. Furthermore, Lolita’s age when Humbert came to be a lodger at her mother’s house was twelve.

Based on the relation between Humbert and Lolita, Humbert’s characteristics are identified into four characteristics, which are jealous, possessive, obsessive, and courageous.

1. Jealous

Gill clarifies some aspects in studying the character, which are based on the way the character speaks and thinks. In order to emphasize Humbert’s jealousy, the writer made a judgment of Humbert by paying attention to what he speaks and thinks, and how Humbert’s mind approaches problems or challenges (1995: 127).

Humbert lost her mother when he was a child and at his youth, he lost his first love, Annabel. Valeria, his first wife, also left him, and then his second wife, Charlotte who was Lolita’s mother, also died in an accident. Humbert lost many women in his life. Lolita who gives him hope and pleasure was a very important person for him. Lolita, for Humbert, seemed to be everything. It was unthinkable and unimaginable for Humbert to live his life without Lolita by his side.

Humbert recognized his jealousy whenever any man stared or looked at Lolita. Humbert was very worried, even though Lolita was too young to attract
men sexually. In Humbert’s opinion, there might be others who have the same psychosexual problem like him. Humbert thought that if there were other pedophiles nearby, Lolita was vulnerable and unadorned enough to be caught by others because of her modest behavior. This quality can be seen through the following quotation.

Queer! I who was jealous of every male we met—queer, how I misinterpreted the designations of doom. Perhaps I had been lulled by Lo’s modest behavior in winter, and anyway it would have been foolish even for a lunatic to suppose another Humbert was avidly following Humbert and Humbert’s nymphet... (Nabokov, 2008: 246).

Humbert, who lost Annabel in his youth and went through many failures in relationships, got the negative effect or destructive forms of jealousy which stemmed from low self-esteem and insecurity which were further magnified by the real or imaginative threat of losing Lolita’s affection. Humbert’s jealous feeling became stronger and bigger when he and Lolita left Breadsley after being there for a year. It became even much stronger and bigger because of the loss of Lolita’s attention (Salovey, 1991: 15-16).

While leaving Breadsley, Humbert followed Lolita’s order in any town they traveled because he did not want to lose her and hope his attendance makes Lolita pleasant and she will give him more attention. At their journey, somebody was always followed them. Humbert thought it was his hallucinations because of his jealousy. He thought there might be somebody else who liked underage girls that followed them. Humbert called him Trapp because he looked similar to his uncle named Gustave Trapp.
Trapp was a character in the story which was described as mysterious person who always followed Humbert’s car secretly. Lolita knew him since he was the person who helped Lolita to run away from Humbert in a hospital when Humbert and Lolita were unhealthy and were at a distance. However, Humbert was in terror because of his jealousy and fear.

2. Possessive

A person who is possessive in his or her feelings and behavior toward another person wants to have all of that person’s love and attention and will not share it with anyone else. When Humbert was still a lodger in Charlotte’s house and Charlotte was still alive, Humbert always tried to be near with Lolita and he always wants her in his supervision to be happy. He always searched a chance to be together only with Lolita when Charlotte was not at home or gossiping on the telephone.

When there was a chance, Humbert tried to get her attention in order to be a friend. As a friend, there was an opportunity to create a mental environment where Lolita saw Humbert as a person who trusted and cared for her the most. The following quotation shows Humbert’s first opportunity to be near Lolita physically. Humbert tried to be calm, and though he felt nervous, he could hide it from Lolita.

My heart beat like a drum as she sat down, cool skirt ballooning, subsiding, on a sofa next to me, and played with her glossy fruit. She tossed it up into the sun-dusted air, and caught it... Humbert Humbert intercepted the apple (Nabokov, 2008: 63).
This quotation shows that Humbert who was possessive enjoyed the nearness of Lolita and took her apple to give her an impression to stay longer and to get her attention, although he was very nervous when he was near Lolita.

While Humbert was very driven to get Lolita, Humbert disliked Lolita’s mother because she was on his way to make Lolita his own. As a lodger, it was of course a sensible thing if Humbert should not have been too close to Lolita. Also, when Humbert had become Lolita’s stepfather, it was also sensible of the mother who was closer to the daughter than the stepfather.

Lolita’s mother was always an obstacle for Humbert to make Lolita his own. Humbert showed his dislike through his thought, the direct knowledge of what he was thinking about. He always described Lolita’s mother as an ugly, bad, unkind person and he liked to give bad nick-names while describing her to the readers. The quality can be seen through the following quotation, where on dinner Lolita did not want to say sorry to her mother because of her mistake.

At dinner tonight the old cat said to me with a sidelong gleam of motherly mockery directed at Lo (I had just been describing, in a flippant vein, the delightful little toothbrush mustache I had not quite decided to grow)... (Nabokov, 2008: 51).

This quotation shows that Humbert was defending Lolita because Lolita’s mother was just an obstacle of his possession, not because Lolita was right or wrong. His dislike was not directly shown, but he tried to be a good listener to the grievances of Lolita’s mother.

After Lolita’s mother died, Humbert as Lolita’s stepfather had the control over Lolita. He took Lolita around from one hotel to another without being known
by neighbors or friends. Humbert was afraid people may know what he had done to Lolita.

Dr. George Simon Ph.D said that a person who is possessive views others as primarily an object of pleasure, which means as a vehicle to get something that he or she wants, or a potential obstacle in the way of something he or she desires (http://counsellingresource.com/features/2008/12/10/possessive-thinking/).

Humbert who was educated was also aware of the importance of education for Lolita, but because of his possessiveness, he was afraid she will run away. In Beardsley town, Humbert decided to take an apartment near Lolita’s new girl-school. He had chosen that apartment in order to be sure with whom Lolita went and came back from school. He also had a list of names of Lolita’s school friend and neighbors, in case Lolita ran away. Lolita must be on his control, he was too afraid in losing her. This quality can be seen through the following conversation.

- This girl was in my group.
- Good. I have a complete student list with me. Her name please.
- She was not in my school. She is only a town girl in Beardsley.
- Good. I have the Beardsley directory with me too. We’ll look up all the Browns (Nabokov, 2008: 225).

This shows that Humbert’s possessiveness led him to see Lolita as an object of pleasure and feel afraid in losing her. All people near Lolita seemed to be obstacles. It shows that Humbert did not consider Lolita as a person with rights, needs, boundaries, or desires of her own.

3. Obsessive

After living a month in Mrs. Haze house, Humbert received a love letter from Mrs. Haze. She said that she fell in love with him from the first time they
met and she asked Humbert to stay if he loves her too and leave the house immediately if he did not. Humbert had decided to stay. He is considered as being obsessive because his act in making this decision was compulsive and his attempts to relieve the anxiety which associated with Humbert’s unpleasant thought. He wants to marry Mrs. Haze because he knew, as a stepfather he had more chance to have a relation to Lolita and a chance to be with Lolita. Humbert sees that this love letter is a success of his effort to make his fantasies come true.

I had brought up for detached inspection the idea of marrying mature widow (say, Charlotte Haze) with not one relative left in the wide gray world, merely in order to have my way with her child (Lo, Lola, Lolita) (Nabokov, 2008: 77).

After always fantasizing a relationship with a “nymphet” for years, Humbert was obsessed to sleep with a real “nymphet”. Furthermore, when he knew Lolita, he was obsessed in making those fantasies to become real. Supported by his circumstance and situation to be a stepfather, he planned to give a sleeping pill to Lolita. Humbert wanted to seduce Lolita when she was unconscious without attracting anyone’s attention and to avoid suspicion.

Humbert’s first plan did not work out like he wanted. Lolita was sent to a summer camp. The opportunity was at a hotel when Humbert took her away from girl’s camp after her mother’s death. In a compulsive way, he gave Lolita some kind of a sleeping pill and gave it to her without thinking about Lolita, but only about his unpleasant thought.

I produced a small vial containing Papa’s Purple pills. As I look back at those seasick murals, at that strange and monstrous moment, I can only explain my behavior then by the mechanism of that dream vacuum wherein revolves a deranged mind; but at the time, it all seemed quite simple and inevitable to me (Nabokov, 2008: 137).
After his obsessions to sleep with a “nymphet” succeeded, Humbert’s situation led him to another typical obsession which was fear and worry about leaving Lolita. Humbert’s new obsession afterwards was to be with Lolita all the time, though he realized that Lolita would grow up and would not always be that “nymphet” that he adored.

4. **Courageous**

Murphy in *Understanding Unseens: an Introduction to English Poetry and the English Novel for Overseas Students* said that an author can describe characteristics by showing the character’s reaction—how character responds to various situations and events. The reaction may give a clue to what characteristics a character has (1972: 171). Based on this statement, Humbert can be said courageous.

Humbert has the ability to do something dangerous or to face pain or the opposition, without showing fear. His courage can be seen on his decision to take Lolita away from Ramsdale after her mother’s death and to make a decision to kill a playwright named Clare Quilty who surreptitiously lured Lolita away from Humbert. Humbert’s decision to kill Quilty was made when Humbert met Lolita again, after three years, as a married, pregnant, poor, young woman. Furthermore, Quilty dis not knew who Humbert was, and they had never met before face to face and talked together. His sorrow led him to judge Quilty as the problem and cause that made Lolita a miserable young woman. This quality can be seen through the following quotation.
How the look of my dear love’s name even affixed to some old hag of an actress, still makes me rock with helpless pain! ...Quine the swine. Guilty of killing Quilty. Oh, my Lolita, I have only words to play with! (Nabokov, 2008: 33).

Humbert felt that he was not good in keeping Lolita from people that might seduce or do something harmful to her, even though actually he did bad things to Lolita too. Therefore his reaction that he showed was courageous.

When Humbert was imprisoned and wrote the story of Lolita, he realized somehow of having this characteristic, he told that he knew he was a courageous man, but in those days he was not aware of it and he remember being surprised by his own coolness.

The relation between Humbert and Lolita emphasizes Humbert’s characteristics into four characteristics, which are jealousy, possessiveness, obsessive, and courage. Lolita was an underage girl; therefore Humbert can be said as a pedophile. The following analysis shows the characteristics of a pedophile as reflected by Humbert.

B. The Characteristics of a Pedophile as Revealed in Humbert Humbert

This part of study focused on the justification and characteristics of pedophilia as seen in the main character. This analysis is conducted by using the theory of pedophilia. A person with pedophilia can be seen from age of sixteen, and Humbert was in his thirties. The essential features of a pedophilia include sexually arousing fantasies, sexual urges, or behaviors that involve categories which is nonhuman objects, and repetitive sexually activity involving children (Getzfeld, 2006: 39).
In order to judge whether somebody is a pedophile or not, the writer does not wholly concern to the past of that person, but rather on the symptoms. Based on the findings about Humbert’s characteristics, the writer would like to emphasize that Humbert was interested in underage girls.

Now I wish to introduce the following idea. Between the age limits of nine and fourteen there occur maidens who, certain bewitched travelers, twice or many times older than they, reveal their true nature which is not human, but nympic (that is demoniac; and these chosen creatures I propose to designate as “nymphets” (Nabokov, 2008: 15).

Humbert’s relationship with an underage girl can be seen in the novel while he was with two characters, Monique and Lolita. The writer, however, has excluded Monique from the analysis for she was a prostitute, not a victim. As a prostitute, sexual intercourse happening between her and Humbert were voluntary, of course, in exchange of money. Meanwhile Lolita was chosen in this analysis because she was a victim of Humbert’s pedophilia and the whole story was about Humbert’s relationship with Lolita.

In chapter one of this study, the writer has already mentioned studies of the characteristics of Humbert. Now as the studies were picked to support the analysis on Humbert’s pedophilia, the writer highlighted events and deeds of Humbert in the novel that met the characteristics of someone being a pedophile.

The characteristics of pedophilia that can be revealed are long term persistent pattern of behavior that results in jealousy, children as preferred sexual object and well-developed techniques obtaining victim as the reflection of Humbert’s possessive, sexual fantasy to disguise his sex obsession toward children, and maintain a facade resulting in negative courage.
1. Long Term Persistent Pattern of Behavior Resulting in Jealousy

Sexual Assault Response Center, or SARC said that long term persistent pattern of behavior of a pedophile are limited social contact as a teenager, frequent and unexpected moves, planned, repeated, or high-risk attempts. Humbert as a pedophile do have limited social contact as a teenager and also high-risk attempts. Humbert was not near to his family. He lost his mother as a child. He was not taken care of his father but his aunt. As a teenager he was sent to a school in another town, and during his study, Humbert’s father married again, it separated them completely. Humbert who puts his father as his role model felt disappointment when he was a teenager, since than he was mostly alone.

Another cause of Humbert’s limited social contact was Annabel, Humbert’s first love, who died because of typhus and left Humbert in a lonely pain. Afterwards, he never had a good relationship with women. It can be concluded that Humbert lost many people that he love in his life and was mostly alone. Issues of loss of a partner or family as well as loss of somebody’s closest bond can trigger anxiety as well depression.

While being in a relationship with Lolita, Humbert felt that what he wanted was fulfilled, without loneliness, and he wanted to keep what he got. Shauna Springer Ph,D from Clinical Psychology Associates of North Central Florida in her article titled Jealousy is a Dangerous Sword views that jealousy’s factor are comparison, competition, and the fear of being replaced.

Humbert’s fear of being replaced was shown by his great jealousy to all people around Lolita. Humbert got the negative effect or destructive forms of
jealousy which stemmed from low self-esteem and insecurity which was further magnified by the real or imagined threat of losing the object of one’s affection (http://cpancf.com/articles_files/jealousyinrelationships.asp).

Humbert’s insecurity led him to thought that if there were other pedophiles nearby, in his opinion, Lolita was vulnerable and unadorned enough to be caught by others because of her inhibited behavior. Therefore, Humbert became jealous and imagined someone might take Lolita away from him because another person can give more affection. This quality can be seen through the following quotation.

Queer! I who was jealous of every male we met—queer, how I misinterpreted the designations of doom. Perhaps I had been lulled by Lo’s modest behavior in winter, and anyway it would have been foolish even for a lunatic to suppose another Humbert was avidly following Humbert and Humbert’s nymphet... (Nabokov, 2008: 246).

This quotation emphasizes that Humbert recognized his jealousy, whenever any man stared or looked at Lolita. Humbert was very worried, even though Lolita was too young to be attracted to men sexually. In Humbert’s insecure opinion, there might be others who have the same psychosexual problem like him.

2. Children as Preferred Sexual Object and Well-Developed Techniques Obtaining Victim as the Reflection of Humbert’s Possessive

There are two characteristics of pedophilia that reflected Humbert’s possessiveness. Those two characteristics were children as preferred sexual object and well developed techniques obtaining victim.

a. Children as Preferred Sexual Object

Assault Response Center, or SARC that stands for mental health in Columbia, states that a pedophile sees children as preferred sexual object, because
usually a pedophile lives alone, limited dating relationships if not married, age and gender preference, and refers to children as “clean”, “pure”, “innocent”, “impish”, and if they are married or have a special relationship, a pedophile will marry someone who does not have high sexual expectations or need. Humbert had those characteristics because he lived alone, he gained limited dating, and in his opinion children are fragile, clean, innocent, and impish.

Humbert primarily saw Lolita as an object of pleasure because Lolita as a child could give Humbert a sexual gratification with the intoxicating feeling of being powerful and in total control, which Humbert always wanted more. Humbert’s fear to lose Lolita led him to be possessive.

Humbert’s possessiveness can be seen when he and Lolita were in Beardsley town. In Beardsley, Humbert decided to take an apartment near Lolita’s new girl-school. He had chosen that apartment in order to be sure with whom Lolita went and came back from school, and he had chosen a girl-school because of his insecure feeling that Lolita might run away. He also had a list of names of Lolita’s school friend and neighbors, which means that Lolita must be on his control. This quality can be seen through the following conversation.

– This girl was in my group.
– Good. I have a complete student list with me. Her name please.
– She was not in my school. She is only a town girl in Beardsley.
– Good. I have the Beardsley directory with me too. We’ll look up all the Browns (Nabokov, 2008: 225).

This shows that Humbert’s possessiveness led him to see Lolita as an object of pleasure and feel afraid in losing her. All people near Lolita seemed to be
obstacles. It shows that Humbert did not consider Lolita as a person with rights, needs, boundaries, or desires of her own, but only as a sexual object.

Humbert’s limited dating relationship can be seen after Annabel’s death. Humbert did not have any close relationship with a woman. Humbert told that his relationship with women was practical, ironical, and brisk. While being a college student, paid women were enough for him. Underage girls caught Humbert’s interest, not only physically because of the shape of the body and the beauty of underage girls, but also because of their characters which was childish and unadorned.

b. Well-Developed Techniques Obtaining Victim

Based on the typical characteristics of a pedophilia by Assault Response Center, or SARC, shows that well-developed techniques of obtaining victim means a pedophile identifies better with children than with adults. A pedophile can gain access to children because they are skilled at manipulating, has hobbies and interests appealing children, and shows sexually explicit material to children. Humbert can be specified into this characteristic because Humbert was skillful at manipulating and he liked to attract Lolita.

Humbert who was possessive in his or her feelings and behavior toward Lolita wants to have all of Lolita’s love and attention and will not share it with anyone else. At the beginning, Humbert always tried to attract Lolita and when Humbert took control of Lolita, Humbert did not want to share Lolita with anyone else, although with Lolita’s mother. The following quotation shows Humbert’s deed to get Lolita’s attention.
My heart beat like a drum as she sat down, cool skirt ballooning, subsiding, on a sofa next to me, and played with her glossy fruit. She tossed it up into the sun-dusted air, and caught it... Humbert Humbert intercepted the apple (Nabokov, 2008: 63).

This quotation shows that Humbert who had well-developed techniques to obtain Lolita reflects Humbert’s possessiveness. The reason why Humbert did this was because he enjoyed the nearness of Lolita. Humbert took Lolita’s apple to give her an impression to stay longer and to get her attention.

Humbert as an intelligent person was skillful in manipulating Lolita. Humbert planned his tricks to sleep with Lolita by giving Lolita sleeping pills, to avoid his violent action be known. This shows that a pedophile will attempt to lure in children by nonviolent means if the child do not know (Getzfeld, 2006: 142). He gave those pills with a trick by lying that they are good for somebody’s health, which also shows the ability of Humbert at verbal manipulation. This quality can be seen through the following quotation:

When the dessert was plunked down—a huge wedge of cheery pie for the young lady and vanilla ice cream for the protector. Most of which she expeditiously added to her pie—I produced a small vial containing Papa’s Purple Pills (Nabokov, 2008: 138).

This quotation emphasized that Humbert was skillful in manipulating children because he said that his sleeping pill was good for health at a good moment. Lolita who was unadorned trusted Humbert and took those pill as an addition in her pie.

3. Sexual Fantasy to Disguise Humbert’s Sex Obsession toward Children

A typical characteristic of a pedophile that was shown by SARC is sexual fantasies focusing on children, which are youth-oriented decorations in house or room, photographing of children, and collecting child pornography or child
erotica. Humbert did not collect or show any youth-oriented decorations in his room or children photographs, however he liked to fantasize children.

At the beginning, Humbert’s interest to young girls was only limited inside his thought, where he adored underage girls and gave a great attention toward facts and findings in order to, more or less, ‘legitimize’ his preference. Humbert was an educated person and so he, too, was aware of public’s opinion and never did anything offensive like raping an underage girl, though he did take advantage of the acquaintances he had formed among social workers and psychotherapists to visit in their company various institutions, such as orphanages and reform schools, where he could stare at those pubescent girls closely and began to dream.

His intense fantasy with underage girls turned to sexual tendency when he had an intercourse with a young prostitute named Monique. Even though the truth of Monique’s age was not implied in the story, Monique’s physical body was similar to a young girl which interested Humbert. This quality can be seen in the following quotation.

When I examined her small hands and drew her attention to their grubby fingernails... With her brown bobbed hair, luminous gray eyes and pale skin, she looked perfectly charming. Her hips were no bigger than those of a squatting laid... she was the only one that gave me a pang of genuine pleasure (Nabokov, 2008: 22).

The Diagnostic Criteria of Pedophilia in *DSM-IV-TR* (2000) indicates that somebody can be said to be pedophile over a period of at least six months, recurrent, intense sexual arousing fantasies, sexual urges, or behaviors involving sexual activity with a child. Humbert had this characteristic of pedophilia; his
fantasies and sexual urges to underage girls were more than six months. It lasted for years, even during this phase Humbert married a woman, Valeria.

Humbert was attracted to Valeria because she was characterized as a childish woman though physically she had an adult-woman-body-shape. To support his fantasy, Humbert stole a girl’s plain nightshirt that he had managed to sneak from the linen closet of an orphanage and let Valeria wear it after marriage when they slept together. Valeria did not realize that Humbert liked underage girls until she divorced him.

In America, Humbert met Lolita at the first time when Lolita was twelve years old in her mother’s house, Charlotte. Getzfeld states that a pedophile may or not have any sexual intercourse with the victim. When Lolita’s mother was still alive and the opportunity to be near with Lolita was very rare, Humbert used Lolita as his object of amorous fantasy. Acts and fantasies involving sexual interference with children were clearly conceptualized as a sign of pedophilia (Blanchard, 2009: 12). In the following quotation is an example of Humbert’s act in fantasizing Lolita.

If I close my eyes I see but not immobilized fraction of her, a cinematographic still, a sudden smooth nether loveliness, as with one knee up under her tartan skirt she sits tying her shoe (Nabokov, 2008: 44).

The reason why Humbert married Lolita’s mother, Charlotte, was to be near with Lolita whom he adored, to make his fantasies become real by seducing Lolita with plans such as giving sleeping pills to avoid Lolita’s consciousness and not to be judged as a criminal. Another reason was also because Humbert knew
that sexual interaction with consenting adults was legal, whereas sexual interaction with children was criminal offense.

Getzfeld said that a pedophile may try to win the trust of the child’s mother; maybe they even marry the child’s mother (2006: 142). Humbert’s act in fulfilling his obsession to be with Lolita can be seen at the scene when Humbert was sitting on Lolita’s bed and reread a letter from Charlotte that showed her love to him. When he realized that his opportunity to be near with Lolita was bright and he had win the trust and heart of Charlotte, he decided to stay at that house and marry Charlotte. This quality was shown in the following quotation.

When I had brought up for detached inspection the idea of marrying a mature widow (say Charlotte Haze), with not one relative left in the wide gray world, merely in order to have my way with the child (Lo, Lola, Lolita) (Nabokov, 2008: 77).

This quotation shows Humbert’s thought about his decision of marrying Lolita’s mother. In his opinion, as a step-father he could have more opportunity to be with Lolita and he had a reason to stay in America for Lolita after he finished his work on summer.

Humbert’s obsession can also be seen on Humbert’s reason to take Lolita away from Ramsdale after Lolita’s mother’s death. Humbert with his possessiveness was afraid of losing his chance to make his fantasies become true. In his opinion, Lolita was the only chance to sleep with a “nymphet” and the only chance to have a good relation with somebody else. As it is stated by Blanchard, a person that does not act on the fantasies or urges of pedophilia is not a pedophile (2009: 4), but Humbert did the opposite.
Marrying Charlotte was the best decision to hide his pedophilia. Blanchard told that one variable of a pedophile to marry an adult woman is because of the law and social norms that encourage pedophiles to make use of adults as “second-best” sexual outlets in place of children (2009: 5).

4. Maintain a Facade Resulting in Negative Courage

A pedophile maintain a facade, or “front” for the world to see, which is divided in the world into me and them. A pedophile live in a distorted mental world, where most pedophiles view their actions as being totally involuntary, it is something over which they exercise no control. They cling to this self-serving concept because it allows a pedophile to continue his act (http://www.wingsfortruth.info/whatisapedophile.pdf).

Humbert shows his distorted mental world by manipulating the facts and used his delusions as permission. A pedophile explain their behavior when caught by stating their action have an educational reason. They may even make rational arguments in supporting their statements (Getzfeld, 2006: 142). Humbert’s statement of educational reason and rational argument can be seen in the following quotation in a scene when Lolita became angry to him because of his possessiveness, here Humbert tried to show his contention.

I’m not a criminal sexual psychopath taking indecent liberties with a child. The rapist was Charlie Holmes; I am the therapist—a matter of nice spacing in the way off distinction...mark you—the normal girl is usually extremely anxious to please her father (Nabokov, 2008: 168).

This quotation emphasizes that in Humbert’s opinion, he was not a person with sexual molester or criminal. Humbert’s contentious was shown by blaming and
pointing Lolita’s affair friend, Charlie Holmes. From his angle, he was the therapist and Lolita was not normal by stating a fact that normal girls usually pleased their father to took care of them, even in sexual matter.

Besides educational reason, a pedophile may also say that the child was sexually provocative and encouraged or initiated the act ([http://www.wingsfortruth.info/whatisapedophile.pdf](http://www.wingsfortruth.info/whatisapedophile.pdf)). Humbert also showed this attitude, saying that Lolita seduced him after he succeeded to make his fantasy become real; to sleep with a nymphet. Lolita, as a victim had no choice because Humbert was her stepfather, the only person after her mother’s death. In the following is an example of how Humbert manipulated the reader as a narrator with his facade.

Frigid gentlewomen of the jury! I had thought that months, perhaps years, would elapse before I dared to reveal myself to Dolores Haze; but by six she was wide awake, and by six fifteen we were technically lovers. I am going to tell you something very strange: it was she who seduced me (Nabokov, 2008: 150).

This quotation shows that Humbert did not feel guilty to Lolita, instead he maintain the event and said that Lolita seduced him.

Humbert has difficulty in controlling his behavior and resisting urges. Therefore, being impulsive with his facade as a pedophile leads Humbert to be courageous, which is the ability to do something dangerous or to face pain or the opposition without showing fear. The example of Humbert being impulsive was his decision to go away from Ramsdale with Lolita. Humbert was afraid people who know him, Lolita, and Lolita’s mother in Ramsdale will know his pedophilia and will take Lolita away from him (Nabokov, 2008: 114).
CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

The main character in Vladimir Nabokov’s *Lolita*, Humbert Humbert, tends to like underage girls and this study reflected the characteristics of pedophilia through Humbert with two problems. First, is how the main character, Humbert, is described in the story, and the second is how Humbert’s characteristics reflected the characteristic of a pedophile. The following is the conclusion of the analysis in Chapter IV.

The first problem analysis resulted in the characterization of Humbert. Humbert was presented as a handsome man in his 30’s who is educated and wealthy. He owned money by working at publishers and was a teacher. Humbert was a taciturn person and was painfully aware about his obsession to little girls which is wrong and illegal. In Humbert’s opinion, between the age of nine and fourteen occurred fairies, who revealed the true nature of beauty which is not human but nymphic. Therefore, Humbert liked to call girls in that age as “nymphets”.

Humbert was a picky person, though Humbert was interested in young girls, Humbert was not interested in all young girls that he met, but there are several criteria until he called them as “nymphets”. In his opinion, young girls were interesting because they were fragile and had a natural beauty. On the other hand, he thought that adult women were ugly and not charming. Humbert fantasized that young girl between nine and fourteen resembled fairies, whose
nature was not that of human being. Humbert was attracted to young girls at 9-14 years old, not only sexually, but also because of their beauty.

Lolita, or Dolores Haze, was the girl whom Humbert fell in love with, because she had all the criteria that he wanted. Humbert met Lolita when he went to America and stayed there as a lodger in Lolita’s mother house. Lolita was an important character in the story because the story itself basically was about Humbert and Lolita and narrated by Humbert.

Humbert’s situation and relation with Lolita led him into a person with jealous, possessive, obsessive, and courageous. These characteristics revealed Humbert’s characteristics of being a pedophile. Humbert can be seen as a pedophile by seeing the characteristics and the justification of a pedophile act and deeds. The characteristics of pedophilia that can be revealed are long term persistent pattern of behavior that results in jealousy, children as preferred sexual object and well-developed techniques obtaining victim as the reflection of Humbert’s possessiveness, sexual fantasy to disguise his sex obsession toward children, and maintain a facade resulting in negative courage.

In addition, from the whole of this study and the correspondence between the theory of pedophilia in psychology and Humbert in the story, showed that reading literature could be used to gain knowledge and understand life about a pedophile.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


