



**MRS. LISBON POSSESSIVENESS TOWARDS HER DAUGHTERS  
DESCRIBED IN JEFFREY EUGENIDES' *THE VIRGIN SUICIDES***

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**by:**

**Sebastian Priestbudi  
Haryati Sulistyorini**

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
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**Student Name** : **Sebastian Priestbudi**

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Advisor,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Haryati Sulistyorini', written over a vertical line that serves as a placeholder for a signature.

Haryati Sulistyorini, M.Hum.

**MRS. LISBON POSSESSIVENESS TOWARDS HER DAUGHTERS DESCRIBED IN  
JEFFREY EUGENIDES' *THE VIRGIN SUICIDES***

***Sebastian Priestbudi, Haryati Sulistyorini***

*Universitas Dian Nuswantoro*

[haryati.sulistyorini@dsn.dinus.ac.id](mailto:haryati.sulistyorini@dsn.dinus.ac.id)

**ABSTRACT**

This thesis entitled 'Mrs. Lisbon Possessive towards her daughters described in Jeffrey Eugenides' *The Virgin Suicide*' has an objective to analyze a possessive mother towards her daughters who is reflected by Mrs. Lisbon as the main character. Besides that this thesis also described the psychological condition of the main character as a possessive mother. The descriptive qualitative method and library research are used to analyze this research for gaining some information, both main source and supported sources. Structural approach is used to analyze structural elements like character, conflict, and setting. Meanwhile, for analyzing possessive of the main character the researcher used psychological approach. The result of the study shows that the main character Mrs. Lisbon described as a mother who is firm, worried, insensitive, conservative, protect. She also experiences both internal and external conflict. She experiences internal conflict when Mrs. Lisbon looks like a hopeless person when Lux, Bonnie, Mary, and Therese committed to suicide, Mrs. Lisbon didn't go to the church and didn't let her neighbors to come on her house after her daughters committed to suicide. She's still mourning about her daughters' suicides. And her external conflict happens when she has a clash against Dr. Hornicker, Cecilia, Lux, Linda Perl, and the foreman. Setting is divided into Setting of place; Home of Lisbon's family and in the bus station, and Setting Setting of time; Sunday, Tuesday, and Five-thirty. Finally Mrs. Lisbon possessive brings her into dehumanizing attitude where she forced her daughters to be her object of possessive. Besides that, her possessive also brings her into realistic anxiety where she always worry and afraid of being blame by people around her since she cover all of her daughters most.

**Keyword:** *Mrs. Lisbon, Possessive, Realistic Anxiety, The Virgin Suicides*

Tesis ini berjudul 'Mrs. Lisbon Possessive towards her daughters described in Jeffrey Eugenides' *The Virgin Suicide*' yang bertujuan untuk menganalisis posesif dari seorang Ibu Mrs. Lisbon sebagai karakter utama terhadap anak - anaknya. Selain itu tesis ini juga mendeskripsikan kondisi psikologi karakter utama sebagai ibu yang posesif. Metode deskriptif kualitatif dan menacri info di perpustakaan

digunakan untuk menganalisa penelitian ini guna menemukan beberapa informasi, baik sumber utama maupun sumber pendukung. Pendekatan struktural digunakan untuk menganalisis elemen struktur seperti gambaran umum karakter utama, konflik yang terjadi, dan latar. Sementara itu, pendekatan psikologis digunakan untuk menganalisis posesif dari karakter utama. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa karakter utama Mrs. Lisbon adalah seorang ibu yang tegas, khawatir, tidak peka, kolot, pelindung. Sebagai karakter utama, ia juga memiliki beberapa konflik internal dan konflik eksternal. Konflik internal yang dialami oleh Mrs. Lisbon terlihat ketika dia seperti orang yang pasrah saat Lux, Bonnie, Mary, Therese. Mrs. Lisbon tidak pergi ke gereja, dan dia tidak membiarkan tetangganya untuk dating kerumahnya setelah kematian anak – anaknya. Dia masih berkabung atas kematian anak – anaknya. Dan Konflik eksternal yang dialami oleh Mrs. Lisbon ketika dia berdebat dengan Dr. Hornicker, Cecilia, Lux, Linda Perl, dan si penebang kayu. Latar dibagi menjadi latar tempat; rumah keluarga Lisbon dan halte bis, dan latar waktu; minggu, selasa, dan lima-tigapuluh. Akhirnya sifat posesif Mrs. Lisbon membawanya menjadi tidak manusiawi ketika dia memaksa anak – anaknya untuk menjadi objek posesifnya. Selain itu, sikap posesifnya juga membawanya menjadi cemas, dimana dia selalu khawatir dan takut disalahkan oleh orang – orang disekelilingnya sejak ia melindungi anak –anaknya terus menerus.

**Keyword:** *Mrs. Lisbon, Posesif, Kecemasan - realistis, The Virgin Suicides*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Based on George Simon (2008) <http://counselingresource.com/features/2008/12/10/possessive-thinking/> Character Disturbance, possessive thinking disturbed characters tend to view their relationships as possessions that they rightfully own; they should be able to do as they wish with these people. Possessive promote a dehumanizing attitude, this make it more likely that the disturbed character will view others, not as human beings, but as objects of pleasure, vehicles to get things he/she wants, or simply potential obstacles in his/her path that must be removed. Possessive make it all but impossible for the disturbed character to view others as individuals with rights, needs, boundaries, of their own, and beings of dignity worthy of respect and consideration.

Jeffrey Eugenides' *The Virgin Suicides* gives an example about a mother's possessive towards her children. Her possessive is based on her sense of belonging towards her children, and how she loves them. This condition brings Mrs. Lisbon into an anxiety, especially realistic anxiety. Realistic anxiety is kind of anxiety that appears when a person face a real thing he worries about. Mrs. Lisbon possessive brings her into realistic anxiety because she was afraid and worries when she has to face a real thing about her children. As mentioned in the general description of the main character, Mrs. Lisbon's possessive also

drives her into a condition which makes the children as the object of her possessive. She even never thought about what the children want. Her possessive is getting higher especially when there was an accident or something happened to the children. When her daughter, Cecilia committed to suicide, Mrs. Lisbon's possessive developing into anxiety. Feeling worry too much can drive or bring her into dehumanizing attitude. The way how she protected her daughters also shows Mrs. Lisbon's possessive. Dehumanizing attitude as the effect of possessive develops fast together with the development of possessive. When Mrs. Lisbon's possessive develops it makes her drives the daughters to be the object of possessive, and it is not realized by Mrs. Lisbon.

Possessive could happen on every people like a mother for examples. When a mother has an expectation towards her children, she will possess this until what she possess achieve well. In the real life we can find there are many persons have a possessive personality too, not only in the literary work. The example is when a person has a relationship, one of from that couple doesn't want to lose his or her couple, and then he/she will protect his or her relation and cause a possessive. But, a lot of people who are possessive don't realize if what he or she did was right or wrong. He or she wouldn't be aware of the impact of what would happen to their victims. The other cased, when a mother have a daughters, she will protect her daughter with anything ways. She wants her daughters got the best, but sometimes she doesn't think what that she do is right or false. Mrs. Lisbon give a strict rules that must be obeyed by her daughters, but she never saw from their daughters' perspective, whether they have comfortable or not. Instead of obeying the rules, her daughters choose the way towards suicide. Therefore I choose this topic, because I want to show one example from bad impact of a Possessive. Not only to parents to their children, but the possibility of against the couple are also can be happen.

Based on the previous explanation, the writer decides to discuss Mrs. Lisbon experiences including her character, conflict, and her Psychological condition that lead her to possess towards her daughters. Finally the writer decides "Mrs. Lisbon's Possessive towards her daughters described in Jeffrey Eugenides' *The Virgin Suicides*" as the title of this proposal.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

### **Data and Subject**

The data of this study was Jeffrey Eugenides' *The Virgin Suicides*.

### **Unit of Analysis**

The researcher focused on the intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements. The intrinsic element includes characters, conflicts, and settings, and the extrinsic elements includes Possessive experience by the main character and also factors which motivate her towards her possessive.

## **Technique of Data Collection and Analysis**

In this thesis, the researcher used descriptive qualitative method to analyze the novel and analyzed the main character based on the intrinsic element in this novel. Those are general description, setting, and conflict experienced and can be prove by quotation in this novel. The researcher also analyzed what the main character does that is related with possessive. That would be explaining by using extrinsic element by using psychological approach to find the possessive of the main character.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Findings**

The researcher found that there were general description of Mrs. Lisbon as the main character, two kinds of conflicts, and two kinds of settings described in Jeffrey Eugenides' *The Virgin Suicides*. The researcher also found what is the possessive of main character towards her daughters. Mrs. Lisbon's possessive also brings her into realistic anxiety.

### **Discussion**

#### **General Description of the Main Character**

##### **Mother**

In my opinion mother is a person who bring up a child with care and affection. In this novel, Mrs. Lisbon is described as a mother of Lisbon Sisters; Cecilia, Lux, Bonnie, Mary, Therese. Mrs. Lisbon has beautiful daughters, whom many people do not expect this.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

The Lisbon girls were thirteen (Cecilia), and fourteen (Lux), and fifteen (Bonnie), and sixteen (Mary), and seventeen (Therese). They were short, roundbuttocked in denim, with roundish cheeks that recalled that same dorsal softness. Whenever we got a glimpse, their faces looked indecently revealed, as though we were used to seeing women in veils. No one could understand how Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon had produced such beautiful children. (Eugenides, 1993:7)

As a mother, Mrs. Lisbon should be responsible to her children, she should be take care of her daughters. It happened when one of her daughter Lux was breaking the curfew that Mrs. Lisbon given to her.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

Given Lux's failure to make curfew, everyone expected a crackdown, but few anticipated it would be so drastic. When we spoke to her years later, however, Mrs. Lisbon maintained that her decision was never intended to be punitive. "At that point being in school was just making things worse," she said. "None of the other children were speaking to the girls. Except boys, and you knew what they were after. The girls needed time to

themselves. A mother knows. I thought if they stayed at home, they'd heal better." (Eugenides, 1993:180)

### **Firm**

According to [www.dictionary.reference.com](http://www.dictionary.reference.com) firm means not soft or yielding when pressed; comparatively solid, hard, stiff, or, rigid. In this case firm is a person's character. Mrs. Lisbon showed her firm when she threw Cecilia's favorite wedding dress, because Cecilia always uses the dress continuously, meanwhile Mrs. Lisbon did not like that and she asked Cecilia to use her grandmother's gown.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

Cecilia emerged from the background like a figure in an optical illusion. She was dressed not in the wedding gown, which Mrs. Lisbon had thrown away, but in a beige dress with a lace collar, a Christmas gift from her grandmother which she had refused to wear in life. (Eugenides, 1993:47)

Mrs. Lisbon told Linda Perl to go because Miss Perl interviewed Bonnie and Mary about Cecilia's death. Mrs. Lisbon covering about the Cecilia's suicide and she does not want to be blamed for that accident.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

Linda Perl's story appeared the next day, though Mr. Larkin would never discuss his reasons for running it. It gave a detailed account of Cecilia's suicide. From the quotations in the piece (you may read it for yourself if you like; we've included it as Exhibit #9), it's clear Ms. Perl, a staff reporter recently hired from a provincial newspaper in MacKinac, interviewed only Bonnie and Mary before Mrs. Lisbon threw her out. (Eugenides, 1993:118)

### **Worried**

According to [www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com](http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com) worried means thinking about unpleasant things that have happened or that might happen and therefore feeling unhappy and afraid. Mrs. Lisbon asked Cecilia to open a little bit the bathroom door when she take a bath, because Cecilia's hobby is soaking a long time in the bathtub. But with the genesis when Cecilia lacerating her hand in the bathroom, Mrs. Lisbon will not let it happen again.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

From two in the afternoon on, Cecilia soaked in the bathtub. It wasn't unusual for her to take marathon baths, but after what had happened the last time, Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon took no chances. "We made her leave the door open a crack," Mrs. Lisbon said. "She didn't like it, of course. (Eugenides, 1993: 54)

Mrs. Lisbon is worry to her daughters when Parkie Denton will drove the car to go to the party. She did this because she loves and cares to her daughter. She is worry that something bad happened to Lisbon Sister.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

"Which one of you is driving?" Mrs. Lisbon asked.

I am," said Parkie Denton. How long have you had your license?"

"Two months. But I had my permit for a year before that."

"We don't usually like the girls to go out in cars. so many accidents nowadays. It's raining and the roads will be slick. So I hope you'll be very careful."

"We will." (Eugenides, 1993:151-152)

### **Insensitive**

According to [www.i.word.com](http://www.i.word.com) insensitive means showing that you don't know or care about the feelings of other people. Mrs. Lisbon as the main character shows her insensitive when Mrs. Lisbon let Cecilia left the party without thinking her daughter's desire. Even she made a party for Cecilia, but she did not asked what was her daughter want.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

"She was always quiet with company," Mrs. Lisbon said. And perhaps because of their lack of socializing, Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon remembered the party as a successful event. Mrs. Lisbon, in fact, was surprised when Cecilia asked to be excused. "I thought she was having a nice time." Even at this point, the other girls didn't act as though they knew what was about to happen. (Eugenides, 1993:56)

Mrs. Lisbon did not bought a new uniform for her daughters when a new school year. They are still wearing their uniform last year, although they will be more grew up every day. Mrs. Lisbon did not feel anything wrong, and she even didn't think that this condition would make her daughters were shy. It shows how insensitive she is.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

Once again, despite their closed ranks, we could see the new differences among them, and we felt that if we kept looking hard enough we might begin to understand what they were feeling and who they were. Mrs. Lisbon hadn't taken the girls to buy new school clothes, so they wore last year's. Their prim dresses were too tight (despite everything, the girls had continued to develop) and they looked uncomfortable. (Eugenides, 1993:77-78)

### **Conservative**

According to [www.dictionary.reference.com](http://www.dictionary.reference.com) conservative means disposed to preserve existing conditions, institutions, etc., or to restore



traditional ones, and to limit change. Mrs. Lisbon showed her conservative when she checked the cosmetic review of her daughters, and did not let them go before Lux replaced her clothes more enclosed.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

On those mornings Mrs. Lisbon assumed a queenly iciness. Clutching her good purse, she checked each daughter for signs of makeup before allowing her to get in the car, and it was not unusual for her to send Lux back inside to put on a less revealing top. (Eugenides, 1993:8)

When Mrs. Lisbon set a date to her daughters with the boys of Perkin's family, it's showed her conservative. Because with her action, she can controlled the dating of her daughters and the boys of Perkin's family. In fact, there's so many children didn't like to forecasting by their parents.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

Mrs. Lisbon had arranged group dates before. The Perkins boys had paddled the Lisbon girls in five aluminum canoes along a murky canal at Belle Isle, while Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon and Mr. and Mrs. Perkins kept a watchful distance in paddle boats. Mrs. Lisbon thought the darker urges of dating could be satisfied by frolic in the open air-love sublimated by lawn darts. (Eugenides, 1993:145)

### **A protected mother**

According to [www.dictionary.cambridge.org](http://www.dictionary.cambridge.org) protect means wanting to protect someone from criticism, hurt, danger, etc., because you like them very much. Mrs. Lisbon showed her protection when she helped Cecilia to protect her hand which was on the bandage to go out of the taxi, due the weather was raining. Cecilia might go to her house after she saved from lacerating her wrist.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

At last Cecilia's small head came into view, hazy in the rain, swimming up with odd thrusting movements because of the double slings that impeded her arms. It took her a while to get up enough steam to roll to her feet. When she finally tumbled out she lifted both slings like canvas wings and Mrs. Lisbon took hold of her left elbow and led her into the house. By that time the rain had found total release... (Eugenides, 1993:18–19)

Mrs. Lisbon tried to protect Lux, Bonnie, Mary, and Therese who were trying to protect Cecilia's tree from a foreman who was going to cut the tree.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

"We've got an order to cut down your elm," the foreman said. "But your kids won't let us."

"How do you know that tree's sick?" Mrs. Lisbon said. "Believe me. We know. It's got yellow leaves. It had yellow leaves. We cut that branch off already. The tree's dead, for Christ's sake."

"We're for aritex," Mr. Lisbon said. "Are you familiar with that? Our daughter showed us an article. It's a less aggressive therapy."

"And it doesn't work. Look, we leave this tree and the others will all be gone by next year."

"Will be anyway, way things are going," said Mr. Lisbon. "I don't want to have to call the police."

"The police?" Mrs. Lisbon asked. "The girls are just standing in their own front yard. Since when is that a crime?" (Eugenides, 1993:233)

### **Conflict Experienced by Mrs. Lisbon as the Main Character**

#### **Mrs. Lisbon Againts Herself**

Mrs. Lisbon as the main character has some Internal Conflicts. For Example, when the medical team found a picture with a note on it. This note showed her daughter Cecilia's committed to suicide, and they shown it to Mrs. Lisbon. That is why Mrs. Lisbon experiences internal conflict.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

-The Virgin Mary has been appearing in our city, bringing her message of peace to a crumbling world. As in Lourdes and Fatima, Our Lady has granted her presence to people just like you. For information call 555-  
Mr. Lisbon read the words three times. Then he said in a defeated voice, "We baptized her, we confirmed her, and now she believes this crap."  
It was his only blasphemy during the entire ordeal. Mrs. Lisbon reacted by crumpling the picture in her fist (it survived; we have a photocopy here). (Eugenides, 1993: 15–16)

When Lux, Bonnie, Mary, and Therese were going to the party, Mrs. Lisbon went back home and suddenly remembered about Cecilia. She sad when remembered there are no Cecilia on Lisbon Sister, which went to the party.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

She didn't meet their eyes but scanned them generally, like a head nurse reading charts. Then she went to the bottom of the stairs and stared up. Not even Joe Hill Conley could imagine what she was thinking. Of Cecilia perhaps, climbing those same stairs four months ago. Of the stairs she had descended on her own first date. Of sounds only a mother can hear. (Eugenides, 1993:152)

#### **Mrs. Lisbon against Dr. Hornicker (the psychiatrist)**

Dr Hornicker asked Mrs. Lisbon to loosen the rules in educating her daughters. According to his report as a psychiatrist, Cecilia got depressed. Cecilia wanted to felt life as a teenager another she was now.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

"Despite the severity of her wounds," he wrote, "I do not think the patient truly meant to end her life. Her act was a cry for help." He met with Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon and recommended that they relax their rules. He thought Cecilia would benefit by "having a social outlet, outside the codification of school, where she can interact with males her own age. At thirteen, Cecilia should be allowed to wear the sort of makeup popular among girls her age, in order to bond with them. The aping of shared customs is an indispensable step in the process of individuation." (Eugenides, 1993:25–26)

### **Mrs. Lisbon against Cecilia (her daughter)**

Mrs. Lisbon asked Cecilia to keep staying in the party that she made for her, but Cecilia also asked Mrs. Lisbon to be excused leave the party. She was annoyed with Cecilia. She was made the party for her little daughter, but in the middle of the party she just leave them all.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

The party was just beginning to get fun when Cecilia slipped off her stool and made her way to her mother. Playing with the bracelets on her left wrist, she asked if she could be excused. It was the only time we ever heard her speak, and we were surprised by the maturity of her voice. More than anything she sounded old and tired. She kept pulling on the bracelets, until Mrs. Lisbon said, "If that's what you want, Cecilia. But we've gone to all this trouble to have a party for you."

Cecilia tugged the bracelets until the tape came unstuck. Then she froze. Mrs. Lisbon said, "All right. Go up, then. We'll have fun without you." (Eugenides, 1993:35)

### **Mrs. Lisbon against Linda Perl (the journalist)**

Mrs. Lisbon told a journalist, Linda Perl, to go when Miss Perl interviewed Bonnie and Mary about Cecilia's death. Mrs. Lisbon protect about the suicide of her daughter by covering what actually has happened. She did it because she doesn't want to be blamed for that accident.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

Linda Perl's story appeared the next day, though Mr. Larkin would never discuss his reasons for running it. It gave a detailed account of Cecilia's suicide. From the quotations in the piece (you may read it for yourself if you like; we've included it as Exhibit #9), it's clear Ms. Perl, a staff reporter recently hired from a provincial newspaper in MacKinac, interviewed only Bonnie and Mary before Mrs. Lisbon threw her out. (Eugenides, 1993:118)

### **Mrs. Lisbon against Lux (her daughter)**

Mrs. Lisbon almost slapped Lux, because she had broken the curfew after she go to the party. Lux was broken her curfew that given by her mother. So that's why, that made Mrs. Lisbon annoyance, and Mrs. Lisbon wanted to make sure is Lux come home late drunk or not.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

As the music played, Mrs. Lisbon stood in the doorway, unmoving. Mr. Lisbon herded Lux inside. Lux came up the steps and crossed the porch, but her mother did not let her enter. Mrs. Lisbon said something Uncle Tucker couldn't hear. Lux opened her mouth. Mrs. Lisbon bent forward and held her face motionless near Lux's. "Breathalyzer," Uncle Tucker explained to us. The test lasted no more than five seconds before Mrs. Lisbon reared back to strike Lux across the face. Lux flinched, but the blow never came. Arm raised, Mrs. Lisbon froze. (Eugenides, 1993:174)

Mrs. Lisbon argued with Lux about her favorite music, rock music, Mrs. Lisbon didn't like that. She told Lux to burned her rock music record, although Lux crying she should do it because that her mother's order.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

The next Sunday, arriving home after a spirited church sermon, she had commanded Lux to destroy her rock records. Mrs. Pitzenberger (who happened to be redecorating a room next door) heard the fierce argument. "Now!" Mrs. Lisbon kept repeating, while Lux tried to reason, to negotiate, and finally burst into tears. (Eugenides, 1993:181)

### **Mrs. Lisbon against the Foreman**

Mrs. Lisbon not only argued with the foreman when he tried to cut Cecilia's favorite tree, but also Mrs. Lisbon protecting Lux, Bonnie, Mary, and Therese that protecting Cecilia's favorite tree.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

"We've got an order to cut down your elm," the foreman said. "But your kids won't let us."

"How do you know that tree's sick?" Mrs. Lisbon said. "Believe me. We know. It's got yellow leaves. It had yellow leaves. We cut that branch off already. The tree's dead, for Christ's sake."

"We're for aritex," Mr. Lisbon said. "Are you familiar with that? Our daughter showed us an article. It's a less aggressive therapy."

"And it doesn't work. Look, we leave this tree and the others will all be gone by next year."

"Will be anyway, way things are going," said Mr. Lisbon. "I don't want to have to call the police."

"The police?" Mrs. Lisbon asked. "The girls are just standing in their own front yard. Since when is that a crime?" (Eugenides, 1993:233)

### **Setting Described in Rick Riordan's *Percy Jackson: The Last Olympian***

#### **Setting of Place**

##### **Lisbon's Home**

Mrs. Lisbon argued with Lux about her favorite music, rock music, Mrs. Lisbon didn't like that. She told Lux to burn her rock music record, although Lux crying she should do it because that her mother's order. And finally Lux was forced to burning her favorite rock music record in the living room of her house.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

Lux stomp to her bedroom, returning with a collection of peach crates. The crates were heavy and Lux slid them down the stairs like sleds. "She acted like she was going to whiz them down. But she always grabbed them before they got out of control." In the living room, Mrs. Lisbon had the fire going, and Lux, now crying without sound, began to consign her records one by one to the flames. We never learned which albums were condemned at that auto-da-fé, but apparently Lux held up album after album, appealing for Mrs. Lisbon's mercy. (Eugenides, 1993:181–182)

##### **Bus Station**

Mrs. Lisbon successfully interviewed a few years later in a bus station by her neighbor's sons about the suicides of her daughters. She's started to telling the truth about what was happened on her family to the boys.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

Our interview with Mrs. Lisbon was brief. She met us at the bus station in the small town she now lives in, because the station was the only place that served coffee. (Eugenides, 1993:180)

#### **Setting of Time**

##### **Sunday**

Sunday is the day when Mrs. Lisbon and her family go to the church using station wagon. Usually before they went to the church, Mrs. Lisbon is used to check her daughters' cloth first, especially on Lux that always using unrevealing top.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

...or on Sundays when the family drove in their paneled station wagon to St. Paul's Catholic Church on the Lake. On those mornings Mrs. Lisbon assumed a queenly iciness. Clutching her good purse, she checked each daughter for signs of makeup before allowing her to get in the car, and it was not unusual for her to send Lux back inside to put on a less revealing top. (Eugenides, 1993:8)

## **Tuesday**

That day on Tuesday, the day when Mrs. Lisbon helped Cecilia went into the house. After Cecilia asked for the permission to go home from hospital because she tried to kill herself, she tried to lacerating her wrist on her bathroom. She's feel happy when Cecilia going back to home, it indicate Mrs. Lisbon' possessive.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

It was Tuesday and she smelled of furniture polish. Together we watched Mrs. Lisbon push open her car door with one foot, then climb out, holding her purse over her head to keep dry. Crouching and frowning, she opened the rear door. Rain fell. Mrs. Lisbon's hair fell into her face. At last Cecilia's small head came into view, hazy in the rain, swimming up with odd thrusting movements because of the double slings that impeded her arms. It took her a while to get up enough steam to roll to her feet. When she finally tumbled out she lifted both slings like canvas wings and Mrs. Lisbon took hold of her left elbow and led her into the house. (Eugenides, 1993:18)

## **At five-thirty**

5.30 p.m. is the time indicated Mrs. Lisbon's possessive since something happened on that time. The accident happened at that time shows when Cecilia was trying to commit suicide in the bathroom and it worked. Cecilia was death at 5.30 p.m. This condition makes Mrs. Lisbon more possessive. She always remembered about the time when her daughter was passed away, that was 5.30 p.m.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

At five-thirty, Cecilia got out of the bath and dressed for the party. Mrs. Lisbon heard her going back and forth between her sisters' two bedrooms (Bonnie shared with Mary, Therese with Lux). The rattling of her bracelets comforted her parents because it allowed them to keep track of her movements like an animal with a bell on its collar. (Eugenides, 1993:55)

## **Mrs. Lisbon's Possessive towards her Daughters described in Jeffrey Eugenides' The Virgin Suicides**

As mentioned before in chapter II, possessive can be classified into character disturbance (George Simon : 2012)  
<http://counsellingresource.com/features/2008/12/10/possessive-thinking/>.

Possessive can drive someone into dehumanizing attitude, like he or she creates someone who is being possessed to be what he or she expected.

Jeffrey Eugenides' *The Virgin Suicides* gives an example about a mother's possessive towards her children. Her possessive is based on her sense of belonging towards her children, and how she loves them. This condition brings

Mrs. Lisbon into an anxiety, especially realistic anxiety. Realistic anxiety is kind of anxiety that appears when a person face a real thing he worries about. Mrs. Lisbon possessive brings her into realistic anxiety because she was afraid and worries when she has to face a real thing about her children. As mentioned in the general description of the main character, Mrs. Lisbon's possessive also drives her into a condition which makes the children as the object of her possessive. She even never thought about what the children want. Her possessive is getting higher especially when there was an accident or something happened to the children. When her daughter, Cecilia committed to suicide, Mrs. Lisbon's possessive developing into anxiety. Feeling worry too much can drive or bring her into dehumanizing attitude. The way how she protected her daughters also shows Mrs. Lisbon's possessive. Dehumanizing attitude as the effect of possessive develops fast together with the development of possessive. When Mrs. Lisbon's possessive develops, it makes her drives the daughters to be the object of possessive, and it is not realized by Mrs. Lisbon. She is consider if her daughters as an object, she keeps the object that may not be borrowed by others and when the object are broken or lost she started anxious and worried to be blamed.

Mrs. Lisbon protected about the death of her daughter by covering what actually has happened. She did it because she doesn't want to be blamed for that accident by people around her. Mrs. Buell and Mrs. Scheer thought the occurrence upon Lisbon Sister was a mistake of Mrs. Lisbon. When they tried to tell and helped her, Mrs. Lisbon continuously trying to divert it. This situation shows that Mrs. Lisbon's possessive brings her into realistic anxiety.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

Everyone had a theory as to why she had tried to kill herself. Mrs. Buell said the parents were to blame. "That girl didn't want to die," she told us. "She just wanted out of that house."

Mrs. Scheer added, "She wanted out of that decorating scheme."

On the day Cecilia returned from the hospital, those two women brought over a Bundt cake in sympathy, but Mrs. Lisbon refused to acknowledge any calamity. We found Mrs. Buell much aged and hugely fat, still sleeping in a separate bedroom from her husband, the Christian Scientist. Propped up in bed, she still wore pearled cat's-eye sunglasses during the daytime, and still rattled ice cubes in the tall glass she claimed contained only water; but there was a new odor of afternoon indolence to her, a soap-opera smell. "As soon as Lily and I took over that Bundt cake, that woman told the girls to go upstairs. We said, 'It's still warm, let's all have a piece,' but she took the cake and put it in the refrigerator. Right in front of us." (Eugenides, 1993:19–20)

Dr. Hornicker, a psychiatrics who is handling Cecilia's psychological condition wants to conduct a conversation with Mrs. Lisbon about the way how

Mrs. Lisbon educates her daughters. However, Mrs. Lisbon refused the offer because she possesses her daughters very much, and she was also afraid of being blame by people around her. Even her husband disagree about this, however he was not able to change Mrs. Lisbon's way of thinking, because Mrs. Lisbon is too dominate in her family. This analysis shows how Mrs. Lisbon protects her family because of her worry. Related to the analysis of conflict, the main character experienced an external conflict with Dr. Hornicker.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

We assumed Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon were in agreement about the new leniency, but when we met with Mr. Lisbon years later, he told us his wife had never agreed with the psychiatrist. "She just gave in for a while," he said. Divorced by that time, he lived alone in an efficiency apartment, the floor of which was covered with shavings from his wood carvings.

Whittled birds and frogs crowded the shelves. According to Mr. Lisbon, he had long harbored doubts about his wife's strictness, knowing in his heart that girls forbidden to dance would only attract husbands with bad complexions and sunken chests. Also, the odor of all those cooped-up girls had begun to annoy him. He felt at times as though he were living in the bird house at the zoo. (Eugenides, 1993:27)

Mrs. Lisbon didn't allow her daughters to have a date with their friends, like join to the party. Because of that, Lux, one of her daughter became rude and disobedience. It shows that the dehumanizing attitude cover her possessive and develops greater. Mrs. Lisbon also creates a condition that her daughters are the object of her possessive.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

It wasn't only Willard. Paul Wanamaker, Kurt Siles, Peter McGuire, Tom Sellers, and Jim Czeslawski all had their few days of going steady with Lux. It was well known that Mr. and Mrs. Lisbon didn't allow their daughters to date, and that Mrs. Lisbon in particular disapproved of dances, proms, and the general expectation that teenagers should be allowed to paw one another in back seats. Lux's brief unions were clandestine. They sprouted in the dead time of study halls, bloomed on the way to the drinking found- tain, and were consummated in the hot box above the auditorium, amid uncomfortable theatrical lights and cables.

The boys met Lux in transit on sanctioned errands, in the aisle of the pharmacy while Mrs. Lisbon waited outside in the car, and once, in the most daring rendezvous, in the station wagon itself, for the fifteen minutes Mrs. Lisbon stood in line at the bank. (Eugenides, 1993:83)

Mrs. Lisbon always manages the activities of her daughters, included having a party, hang out and everything dealing with that. Mrs. Lisbon always



sets a date of her daughters with the boys of Perkins' family. She doesn't want something happened towards them. It shows her worry develops into anxious.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

On a road trip recently (no reason for going other than boredom and gray skies) we stopped in Pennsylvania and, while buying candles in a roughhewn store, learned of the Amish courting custom wherein a boy takes his homespun date for a ride in a black buggy, followed by her parents in another.

Mrs. Lisbon, too, believed in keeping romance under surveillance. But whereas the Amish boy later returns in the dead of night to throw pebbles against the girl's window (pebbles everyone agrees not to hear), no nocturnal amnesty existed in Mrs. Lisbon's doctrine. Her canoes never led to campfires.

The girls could expect only more of the same. And with Mr. Lisbon chaperoning, they would be kept on the usual short leash. It was difficult enough having a teacher for a parent, on view day after day in his three suits, making a living. (Eugenides, 1993:146)

Mrs. Lisbon's possessive finally develops much especially when she found her daughter, Lux for coming late from the party at her school with her close friend, Trip Fontaine. Her anxiety drives her to be more possessive than before since she is worried about her daughters' safety. After this situation happened, Mrs. Lisbon became more possessive towards her daughters.

The following excerpt shows the analysis:

FOUR A few weeks after Mrs. Lisbon shut the house in maximum-security isolation, the sightings of Lux making love on the roof began.

Following the Homecoming dance, Mrs. Lisbon closed the downstairs shades. All we could see were the girls' incarcerated shadows, which ran riot in our imaginations. Moreover, as fall turned to winter, the trees in the yard drooped and thickened, concealing the house, even though their leaflessness should have revealed it. A cloud always seemed to hover over the Lisbons' roof. There was no explanation except the psychic one that the house became obscured because Mrs. Lisbon willed it to. The sky grew darker, and light abandoned the daytime, so that we found ourselves always moving in a timeless murk, the only way to discern the hour the taste of our burps, toothpasty in the morning, redolent in the afternoon of the jellied beef of school cafeteria meals.

Without explanation, the girls were taken out of school. They merely failed to show up one morning, and then again the next. (Eugenides, 1993:178–179)

## CONCLUSION

Based on the previous discussion, finally it is concluded as follows:

The main character in Jeffrey Eugenides' *The Virgin Suicide* is Mrs Lisbon. She is described as a mother of Lisbon Sister; Therese, Mary, Bonnie, Lux, and Cecilia. She is described as a firm mother, she wants her daughters obey the rules that she made. She will act firmly if her daughters broke her rules. Mrs. Lisbon is also described as a worry mother who always anxious about her daughters. That's why she protects her daughters strictly, because she doesn't want any a bad thing affect her daughters. However, Mrs Lisbon became conservative and insensitive mother towards her daughters. She always be foggy with a things that she considers to be right, and could even say if her actions is too extreme. Besides that, Mrs. Lisbon is also insensitive with her daughters' psychological condition. Several teenage girls who want to grow up normally like the other teenagers at that time, but Mrs. Lisbon instead made her daughters as a toy that shouldn't be borrowed by the others.

Mrs Lisbon also experiences both internal and external conflict. The internal conflict happened when she pretended to be happy when the boys pick up her daughters to go to the party. Mrs. Lisbon also felt hopeless when her daughters committed to suicides, she didn't expect if her daughters committed to suicide for what she have done before. Mrs. Lisbon also has some external conflicts against her daughters, especially to Cecilia and Lux. Mrs. Lisbon wants what she said was conducted by her daughters, she is even as doesn't leave behind of her daughters feelings. Mrs. Lisbon has a clash with Dr. Hornicker about the rules in educating her daughters. According to his report as a psychiatrist, Cecilia got depressed. Cecilia wanted to felt life as a teenager another she was now. Mrs Lisbon also expelled Linda Perl, she is a journalist. Mrs Lisbon expelled her because Miss Perl interviewed Bonnie and Mary about Cecilia's death. Mrs Lisbon also argued with a foreman that will cut off Cecilia's tree.

Settings are divided into setting of place and setting of time. The settings of place are mostly in Home of Lisbon's family. Mrs Lisbon was waiting for Lux who broke of her curfew in the near door when she told Lux to be burnt her favourite rock music record in living room. The settings of time are on Sunday, when Mrs Lisbon and her family go to the church using station wagon. On Tuesday, the day when Mrs Lisbon helped Cecilia went into the house. At five-thirty when Mrs Lisbon heard Cecilia have finished taking a bath and already dressed up to a party which made for her. On the next Sunday when she told Lux to burn her favourite rock music record.

Mrs Lisbon's possessive can be classified into dehumanizing attitude. She forces her daughters to be an object she wants. Her possessive develops much and drives her into realistic anxiety. It happens when she refuses a psychiatrics who is going to help her daughter Cecillia. Her possessive also brings her into both internal and external conflict.

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