

**MARITAL RELATION AND INTERACTION IN
AMERICAN MARRIAGE; A COMPARATIVE STUDY
OF THE NOVEL *AN AMERICAN MARRIAGE* AND
MARÍA CONCEPCIÓN SHORT STORY**



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Semarang, Wednesday, 13 September 2023



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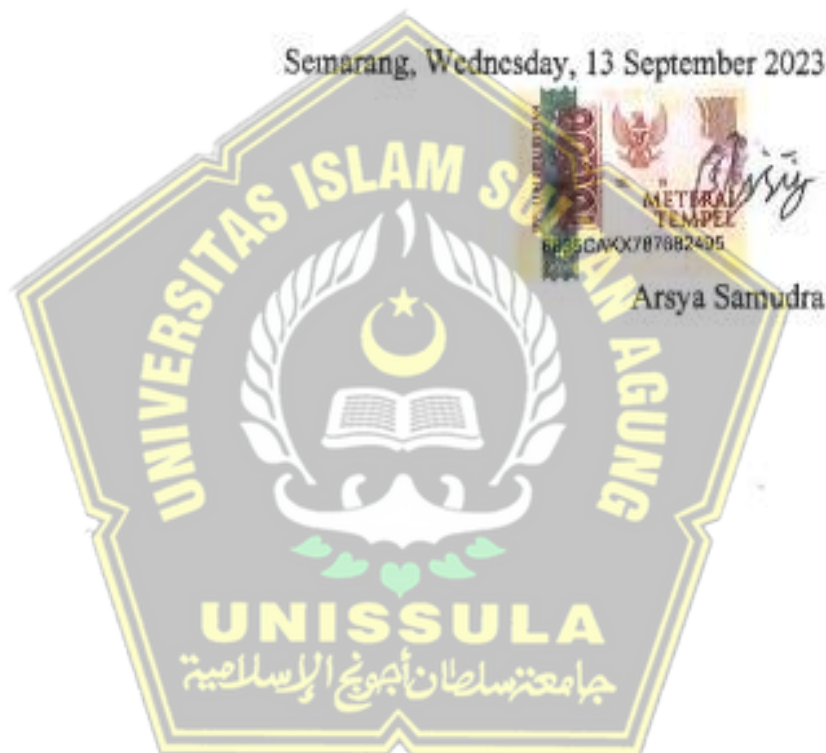
Dear

Triamanak, S.Sos., M.Si

STATEMENT OF WORK ORIGINALITY

Hereby, I honestly declare that the undergraduate thesis I wrote does not contain the work of other people, except those which were cited in the quotation and the references, as a scientific paper should. If my statement is not valid in the future, I absolutely agree to accept an academic sanction in the form of revocation of my paper and my degree obtained from the paper.

Semarang, Wednesday, 13 September 2023



Arsya Samudra

MOTTO

“Everything happens for a reason.”

DEDICATION

With very sincere gratitude to Allah *Subhanallahu Wa Ta'ala*, for his blessing I can finish this final project. Also, many thanks to my mother and cousin who has always supported and believed in me.



ABSTRACT

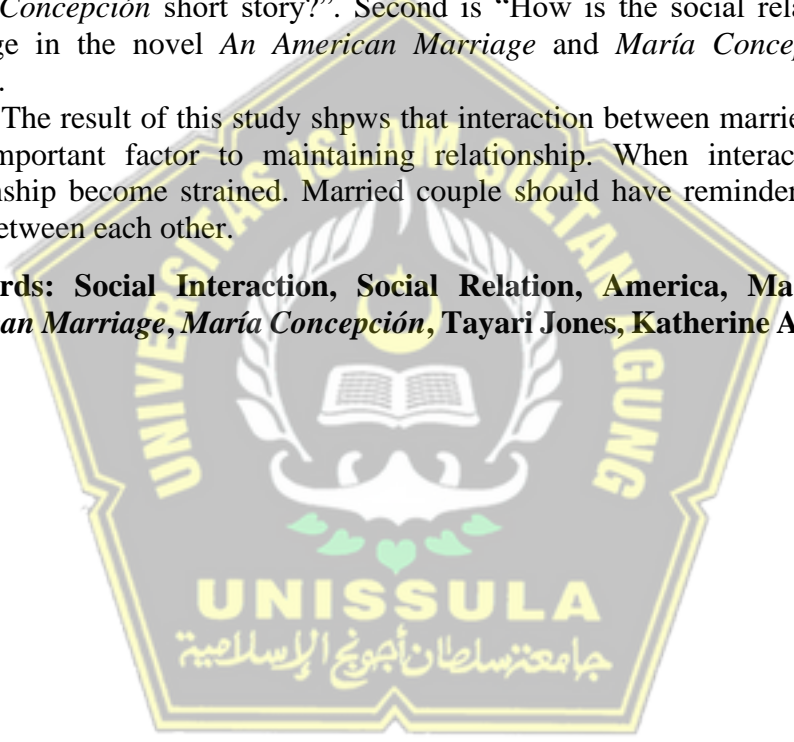
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Living in this beautiful world, Allah SWT create all of His creation with their own pair or partner to live together harmoniously, to love each other, and to continue their lineage. Human, as social creature that is civilized, make the meaning of coexistence as husband and wife in a household marriage which is bound by a marriage bond based on the law and accompanied by responsibilities.

This study would be aiming to answer the following questions. First is “How is the interaction in the marriage in the novel *An American Marriage* and *María Concepción* short story?”. Second is “How is the social relation in the marriage in the novel *An American Marriage* and *María Concepción* short story?”.

The result of this study shpws that interaction between married couple is very important factor to maintaining relationship. When interaction failed, relationship become strained. Married couple should have reminder to interact more between each other.

Keywords: Social Interaction, Social Relation, America, Marriage, *An American Marriage*, *María Concepción*, Tayari Jones, Katherine Anne Porter



INTISARI

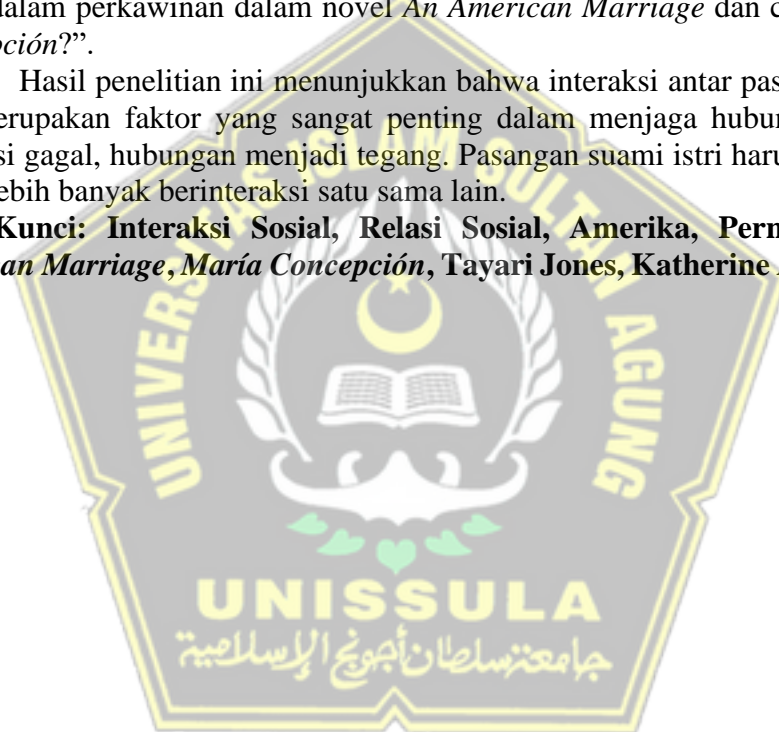
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Hidup di dunia yang indah ini, Allah SWT menciptakan seluruh ciptaan-Nya berpasang-pasangan masing-masing untuk hidup bersama secara harmonis, saling mencintai, dan meneruskan garis keturunan. Manusia sebagai makhluk sosial yang beradab menjadikan makna hidup berdampingan sebagai suami istri dalam suatu perkawinan rumah tangga yang diikat oleh ikatan perkawinan berdasarkan hukum dan disertai tanggung jawab.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjawab pertanyaan-pertanyaan berikut. Pertama adalah “Bagaimana interaksi pernikahan dalam novel *An American Marriage* dan cerpen *María Concepción*?”. Kedua adalah “Bagaimana relasi sosial dalam perkawinan dalam novel *An American Marriage* dan cerpen *María Concepción*?”.

Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa interaksi antar pasangan suami istri merupakan faktor yang sangat penting dalam menjaga hubungan. Ketika interaksi gagal, hubungan menjadi tegang. Pasangan suami istri harus diingatkan untuk lebih banyak berinteraksi satu sama lain.

Kata Kunci: Interaksi Sosial, Relasi Sosial, Amerika, Pernikahan, *An American Marriage*, *María Concepción*, Tayari Jones, Katherine Anne Porter



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In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala who eases every difficulty and gives me incredible blessings so that I could accomplish this final project. I realize that this final project could not be completed without getting motivation, advances, support, and guidance from many people. Therefore, I would like to express my deepest gratitude the following people:

1. Dean of Language and Communication Science Faculty, Triamanah, S.Sos., M.Si
2. Idha Nurhamidah, S.S., M.Hum as my advisor; Diyah Fitri Wulandari, S.S., M.Hum and Nailil Muna, S.S., M.A as my examiner who has given me useful comments, guidance, suggestion, corrections, and all support since the preliminary of this final project until the end for her support, help, and encouragement.
3. All lectures of the Language and Communication Science Faculty of Sultan Agung Islamic University have contributed and transferred their knowledge that very helpful and useful.
4. My beloved mother, for her love, patience, support and sincere prayers for my safety, healthy, and successfulness.
5. My cousin who helped me a lot along this final project completion.
6. Last but not least, I want to thank me, for not giving up.

This final project definitely far from the best, but I hope what is written here can be useful for the readers.

Semarang, Wednesday, 13 September 2023

Arsya Samudra



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Living in this beautiful world, Allah SWT create all of His creation with their own pair or partner to live together harmoniously, to love each other, and to continue their lineage (Qur'an An-Nisa (1)). Human, as social creature that is civilized, make the meaning of coexistence as husband and wife in a household marriage which is bound by a marriage bond based on the law, so that it becomes a legal marriage both in sharia and in formal law, and accompanied by responsibilities. A man and a woman who have entered the life of husband and wife, have entered a new gate in their lives to form a *sakinah, mawaddah, wa rahmah* household (Alzam, 2010).

Marriage is the innate need of every human being which gives many important results. Marriage is a sacred worship and becomes a very important thing in human life, both individually and in groups, because with a legal marriage, the association between a man and a woman becomes honorable according to human position as an honorable creature (Ikhsanudin and Nurjannah, 2018). Marriage is the right of every human being. Human instinct to continue civilization. Marriage is the key word for the development of a nation's civilization and becomes the basis for doing better social engineering through quality family buildings so that it will sow the seeds of the next generation of superior people in the relay of the nation's struggle (Julianto, 2011). Marriage is one of the most important basic principles of life in a perfect association or society and marriage is a noble path so that its implementation must be in accordance with regulations,

both formal legal regulations, and religious sharia law (Alfina, Akhyar, and Matnuh, 2016).

Marriage is a term that is very familiar in people's heads because it is often heard by the community, both in the real world and in the virtual world. However, if someone is asked about the definition of marriage, then that person will think first how to formulate the most perfect definition of marriage. In fact, what is meant by the term has been clearly understood by the public outside of their head. Before entering this issue, it should be understood first about the meaning of marriage.

Marriage is also an inner and outer bond between two parties. The inner and outer bond in question has two different meanings, namely, outer bond and inner bond. The outer bond is a visible bond, a formal bond in accordance with existing legal regulations. This formal bond is real, both binding their self, namely husband and wife, as well as other people, namely the wider community. The inner bond is a bond that is not seen directly, is a psychological bond that binds husband and wife, namely the bond of feelings of love and affection without any coercion.

The concept of marriage in general has a sociological concept in accordance with the social conditions of society. The social concept in a marriage, of course, must not violate legal norms and social norms that apply in society. Even this social concept does not only apply in a country, but also universally the sociological concept of a marriage is the same. In all the nations of the world, marriage is a great bond and married people will receive a higher value than unmarried people. People who are married or have had a family will have a position that is more respected and respected than those who are not married.

Likewise, the concept of marriage in the United States, of course, also has its own legal rules and also fulfills social requirements. The concept of marriage in the United States underwent a very large change when technology advanced. Especially when the world enters the industry 4.0 era. The last half century the world community is entering an era known as the 'information age' or 'information society' or 'post-industrial era' which is also known as the era of the technological revolution 4.0 after previously passing through the stages of civilization of hunter-gatherer society, agriculture, and industry. But in entering this information technology era there is a high price to be paid by the public, especially in developed countries such as, in the United States, England, Sweden, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Norway, Finland and Korea (Afiah, 2020. *Editorial, Jurnal Pemikiran Riset dan Sosiologi*).

In colonial America, when most Americans lived on farms, the family was the basic unit of production that produced not only food but also household items. Families educate children and care for the elderly. In addition, because it is remote and there are no means of public transportation in all agricultural areas, the family also becomes the main source of entertainment. In the following years, almost all of that function disappeared. First, men, then women started looking for work outside the home, namely in factories and offices, children were sent to public schools to be educated, and their grandmothers and grandfathers were sent to nursing homes. The entertainment was provided by private companies such as *Walt Disney* and *MGM*. In the middle of the 20th century, the family shrank into a nuclear family of two generations and its function was only to reproduce (Fukuyama, 1999).

With the growth of society, every few decades the norms about how a person lives his life are always changing. Likewise, the same happens about marriages in various countries. One is that marriage in the United States has changed rapidly in the last decade. In the past, even though people kept cheating behind their partners, their marriages were still maintained to maintain their status. However, nowadays, even before reaching the stage of marriage people are more likely to cheat behind their partner's back. This trend also slows the average year before marriage between couples in America.

In addition, the development of the internet in recent years has made the exchange of information between countries easier. People can easily communicate with each other to compare different things between their countries and choose which one they want in their life. This makes each country's population change in development. They influence each other, even when their countries are far apart. With how the development of marriage in America, Europe as a whole soon followed. Even in our own country, Indonesia, the view on marriage has begun to change from the old view. The impact of globalization has given birth to rapid and sophisticated technological advances.

In general, in a marriage, of course there is a union of two families of both parties. As a result of the unification of these two large families, it will have various impacts on social interactions between families and relationships within the family. Both interactions and relationships between individuals as well as interactions and relationships between individuals and families (groups) as well as interactions and relationships between the two families. Various aspects can affect interactions and relationships in a marriage. Social, economic, cultural, and

psychological aspects also affect the process of interaction and relationships in a marriage. This applies universally.

Such changes in marriage in America are well presented in the novel *An American Marriage* and the *María Concepción* short story.

In the novel *An American Marriage*, changes are seen in the construction and interaction of marriage in American society. Even though the novelist looks like she is exaggerating in talking about the concept of marriage in their country, in reality, marriage has changed. One of the reasons for this change is that people's views have begun to change. The author makes the story of the novel *An American Marriage* with the assumption that the story in the novel will one day become a reality. In fact, what is written by the author of *An American Marriage* shows a tendency that the construction of marriage in America today is as written in her novel.

Apart from America, European countries which are classified as developed also experienced the same changes. Even in America and the developed countries of Europe, many choose to have a romantic relationship and live in one house or apartment but do not marry in the long term. Children are also usually not a priority for adults, they prefer the presence of a partner in life over children, and if they do not have children, when they break up their relationship will be easier because of the absence of marriage ties and dependents on their children.

With fewer children being born in a country due to reduced and slowed marriages, the number of children who can become the nation's successors will also decrease. The development of a nation depends on the successors of that nation, therefore, a nation that lacks successors will experience a slowdown in their development.

What is very interesting to be studied is about the interaction and marital relations in the novel *An American Marriage* and the *María Concepción* short story. Interesting, because the depiction or description in the two stories studied is a general description of social interactions and relationships in marriage in the lower middle class American society. The two stories studied describe marital life in lower-middle families with various dynamics, interactions, relationships, and phenomena.

Literary works or stories, whether novels, short stories, or serials are representations of their world, therefore they are interesting to study. In the sociology of literature, this is a common thing to do. As various representations of the real world, novels and short stories also describe the dynamics of social life. Therefore, this study will examine social interactions and relations in novels and short stories and their dynamics as social representations.

B. Limitation of the Study

This research focuses on social interactions and social relations that happen in novel *An American Marriage* and *María Concepción* short story and then extrapolate how marriage is seen in America based on those observation.

C. Problem formulation

Based on the background of the study above, this study would be discussing the problem formulation as follows:

1. How is the interaction in the marriage in the novel *An American Marriage* and *María Concepción* short story?
2. How is the social relation in the marriage in the novel *An American Marriage* and *María Concepción* short story?

D. The Objective of the Study

The purpose of this research is to get answers about several things:

1. To describe the interaction in marriage in America in the novel *An American Marriage* and *María Concepción* short story.
2. To examine the relationship in marriage in the novel *An American Marriage* and *María Concepción* short story.

E. Significance of the Study

Research with the title **MARITAL RELATION AND INTERACTION IN AMERICAN MARRIAGE; A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE NOVEL AN AMERICAN MARRIAGE AND MARÍA CONCEPCIÓN SHORT STORY** is expected to provide benefits both theoretically and practically.

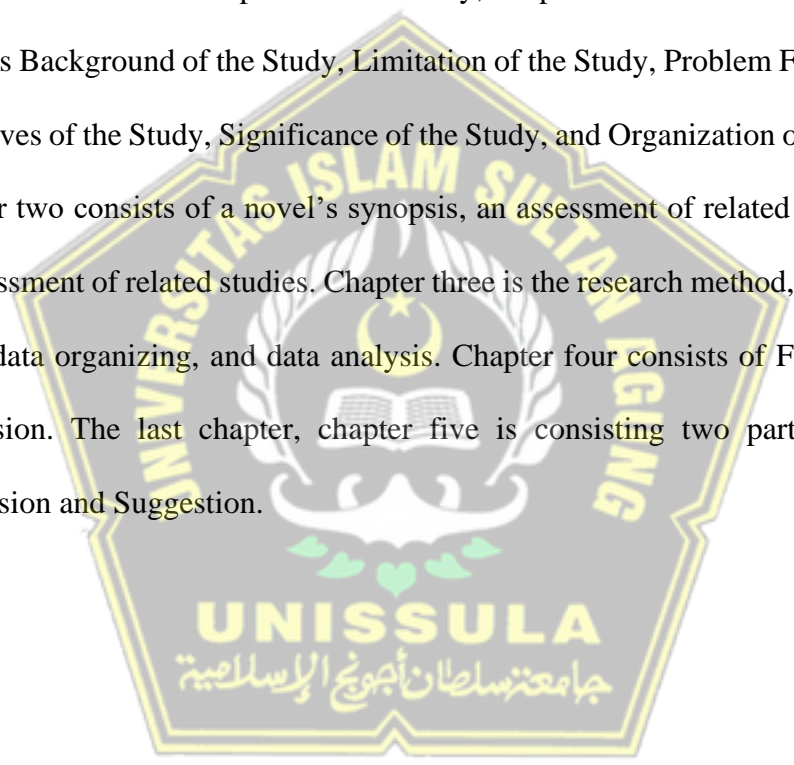
1. Theoretical Benefits
 - a. Adding insight and knowledge in the field of Literature, especially English literature.
 - b. Provide a new discourse in social sciences, especially in linguistics and the sociology of literature on interactions and social relations of marriage in America.
 - c. Provide inspiration to other researchers to conduct novel analytical research in various fields of science.
2. Practical Benefits
 - a. This research can be used as important information to the people in Indonesia, especially about marital interactions and relations.
 - b. Become a reference for the younger generation and society in general that what happens in developed countries are not always can be

imitated just like that and is not necessarily in accordance with the culture of the Indonesian people.

- c. This research can be used as a comparison or input for related institutions to be aware of the trends that occur in Indonesia regarding changes in the meaning and construction of marriage among the younger generation.

F. Organization of the study

There are five chapters in this study; chapter one is Introduction, which contains Background of the Study, Limitation of the Study, Problem Formulation, Objectives of the Study, Significance of the Study, and Organization of the Study. Chapter two consists of a novel's synopsis, an assessment of related theory, and an assessment of related studies. Chapter three is the research method, details data types, data organizing, and data analysis. Chapter four consists of Findings and Discussion. The last chapter, chapter five is consisting two parts, they are Conclusion and Suggestion.



CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter presents the related theory with the characters in the novel *An American Marriage* and *María Concepción* short story. Chapter II will explain social relations and social interactions theory; it's also discussed the relations and interactions that is the settings for supporting the theoretical approach.

A. Synopsis of *An American Marriage* Novel

The novel *An American Marriage* tells the story of Roy, a sales representative for a book company and Celestial, an artist who specializes in baby dolls. They are a newlywed couple. After their first year of marriage, they travelled to Elie, Louisiana to visit Roy's parents. The newlyweds spend the night at the local Motel 6 where they have argument after Roy tells Celestial that his father is not his biological father. In the midst of their fight, they took 15 minutes to compose themselves where Roy came out of their room and met a woman his mother's age with a broken arm who he helped to her room. That night the woman was raped and she called the police, believing that Roy had raped her. While Roy is in prison awaiting trial, Celestial discovers that she is pregnant and the two decide that she must have an abortion. When this case was brought to court, Roy was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

During the first few years Roy and Celestial remained in active correspondence, although Roy grew increasingly frustrated as Celestial's career as an artist began to take off because the gaps between their letters and visits grew longer. During this period Roy discovers that his cellmate Walter is actually his real father and shares the news with Celestial. Also, during this time, Roy learns that his mother, Olive, has died. After three years, Celestial tells Roy that he no

longer wants to be his wife, causing a rift between them. Roy refused communication with Celestial for the next two years, but when his case was eventually dropped on appeal and the local DA decided against pursuing the case, he optimistically reached out to Celestial believing that there was still hope for their marriage as he never did divorce her.

Celestial, meanwhile, falls in love with her childhood best friend, Andre. The night she learns that Roy will be released, Andre proposes. Despite her guilt, Celestial decides to divorce Roy and marry Andre. Although her entire family accepts her choice, the news causes a rift between Celestial and her father.

Roy was released from prison early and was collected by his father, Roy Sr. Realizing that Celestial is planning for Andre to pick him up, Roy decides to head to Atlanta just as Andre is about to pick him up, ensuring that he will have time to spend alone with Celestial. Before he leaves, Roy meets his former classmate, Davina, who invites him to dinner. The two end up having sex which Roy finds meaningful. He still decided to go to Atlanta to pursue a relationship with his wife.

In Atlanta, Roy is relieved to learn that his key still works and surprises Celestial by being home when she returns from his doll shop. Roy tries to have sex with her but she asks him to use protection, knowing he doesn't have one. The next day Andre arrives and in the ensuing argument about what happened when Roy is in prison Roy attacks and beats Andre on Celestial's yard. Even though the police are called Celestial managed to smooth things over. Celestial returns with Roy to her house and the next morning and tells Andre that she needs to be with Roy. But that night, when Roy admits to having sex with Davina, Celestial doesn't react so Roy realizes that Celestial really doesn't love him romantically anymore.

Even though she was willing to have sex with him, he refused saying that he was never and never will be a rapist.

In the epilogue Roy and Celestial exchange letters. Celestial tells Roy that even though she and Andre have a baby, they have no plans to get married and Roy tells Celestial that he has reunited with Davina and the two are planning to get married.

B. Synopsis of *María Concepción* Short Story

María Concepción Manríquez is happy with her married life to Juan de Dios Villegas, both were each little more than eighteenth years old. María Concepción is known among the neighborhood as an energetic and religious person. One day, after she finished doing her morning work routine as usual, she passed near a house where María Rosa, a child of fifteen years old, who lived with her old godmother Lupe.

María Concepción is noting how silent the area is and concluded that both María Rosa and Lupe were not home. After María Concepción continue in her path a bit, she heard laughing of a girl and a man. Thinking that María Rosa has a man she fancied, María Concepción is smiling to herself. She then tried to get a look of María Rosa and her man.

What María Concepción saw is that María Rosa is running and followed by Juan Villegas. María Concepción is shocked to see the two of them. She then saw Juan is flirting with María Rosa. Still shocked by what she saw, María Concepción can only continue walking to her original destination. She did not think to confront Juan, but her anger grows and thoughts about killing Juan and María Rosa entered her mind. That night, Juan did not come home and instead go to war. María Rosa also following Juan to go to war.

Life in the village continues as usual. People were thinking that it is better that both Juan and María Rosa are not here. Saying María Rosa is safer with the army than with María Concepción at the village. María Concepción did not cry when Juan left her, she also did not cry when her baby is born and died four days later. When Lupe offers her condolence, María Concepción curse her instead. While Juan was away, María Concepción sold her fowls and continue tending to her garden. Because of that, she did not lack any money.

Juan and Rosa come back from war because Rosa is pregnant and about to deliver. While Juan is detained for deserting, Rosa come back home delivers the baby safely with the help of Lupe. Juan then is bailed by his chief from when he was working before leaving the village. He then visits Rosa and saw her with his son. Seeing this, Juan suddenly turns away and goes drinking instead.

When it's time to return, Juan started to walk to Rosa house, but ended up in his own house. He then tried to assert his standing with Concepción. Concepción, after hearing about Juan's return earlier did not yield and even resisting Juan. Still half-asleep after drinking, Juan backs away to a shadowed corner and falls asleep.

Concepción leaves to do her daily routine in panic and confusion. When Concepción come to her senses, she realized that she killed Rosa. After that, Concepción return home and Juan is scared to see her with knife drawn. But Concepción throws the knife away instead and got on her knees and becomes catatonic. Juan consoles her and told Concepción to hide the evidence. Juan then confronts Concepción about the truth, but Concepción only said that everything is now settled. Juan agrees and promise to not leave her again.

When the investigators come, Juan and Concepción, who is still subdued, follows them to be questioned about Rosa's death. Seeing Rosa's corpse, Concepción began to calm down. When the investigators questioned everyone, Juan and the whole village, even Lupe, defends Concepción. Because lack of evidence, nobody can be accused and the investigators leaves.

Concepción then claimed Rosa's child as her own. Everyone agrees and then they all comes back to their own house. While walking home, Juan only feels bitterness and only wish to sleep. After taking care of the child and while falling asleep, Concepción is filled with strange happiness.

C. Related Theory

Theoretical study in a study will provide an explanation of the arguments, concepts, and postulates that will be used by researchers in analyzing research. The theoretical study will also explain the analysis of research findings on the interaction and relationship of marriage in the novel *An American Marriage* and the short story *María Concepción*.

The data analysis process requires a comprehensive understanding of the theoretical concepts used to suit the problem to be studied. Researchers, analyze data and research findings qualitatively by providing interpretative and in-depth understanding. Data in the form of documents from the novel *An American Marriage* and the short story *María Concepción* which are the focus of this study will be analyzed in depth with the theory or concept used.

1. Social Interaction

Social interaction is a reciprocal relationship or mutual influence. It can be done by everyone either in individual relationships, people between people, or people with groups or groups with groups (Soekanto, 2013). The reciprocal

relationship carried out by a person is related to the process of that person adjusting to social life. Someone will take action to respond to what other people say and do (Calhoun, in Nasdian, 2015:43). Thus, individuals have the ability to adjust themselves and to influence one another.

The behavior of someone who carries out social interaction can create relationships that influence each other, change, improve, the behavior of others. Individual responses or responses that are created from a social interaction can be in the form of words (utterances), gestures, and other signs that influence one another.

The conditions for fulfilling social interaction are social contact and communication, as stated by Sudariyanto (2020: 22). Social contact is defined as the relationship of each individual or more in the form of a conversation in which each individual understands his intentions and goals in community life. Social contact is not only related to physical contact, but can also occur without direct touch. Indirect touch in social contact can be through letters, telephone, or communication using other platforms. Social contact also has the meaning that the actor gives an action that will be discussed by the recipient as a reaction. Social contact can be positive (cooperation) or negative (opposition). In addition, social contact can also be primary or secondary. Primary contact occurs when the relationship takes place face to face or face to face, while secondary contact can be established if there is an intermediary.

Communication is defined as someone's action of conveying a signal in the form of a message to be conveyed to other people and that person receives the message with behavior as a form of reaction (Sudariyanto, 2020: 25). Forms of communication can occur through speech, gestures and feelings. Communication

can be positive if it results in cooperation because each party communicating can understand the intent and purpose, while it is negative if each party communicating cannot understand the intent and purpose of each.

Social interaction that occurs in society generally consists of four forms as stated by Sudariyanto (2020: 34), namely: cooperation, competition, accommodation, and conflict. According to Roucek and Waren (in Sudariyanto, 2020: 35) collaboration is working together to achieve a common goal. This collaboration is the most basic process that involves several people to do certain jobs in which there is a division of tasks and everyone understands their responsibilities in achieving common goals. Meanwhile competition is an effort made by someone to achieve something he wants to be more than other people. Each individual or group competes for profit through various fields of life without making threats or violence (Sudariyanto, 2020:37). Accommodation is a situation by creating a balance in interacting between individuals and groups. Efforts to reduce conflicts arising from individuals and groups due to differences in views and understanding in society (Sudariyanto, 2020:37).

Important characteristics for social interaction to take place in a society, in this case, Charles P. Loomis (in Santosa, 2006) suggests four important characteristics of social interaction, namely:

- a. The actor is more than one, can be two or more.
- b. There is communication between the actor by using symbols.
- c. There is a dimension of time which includes the past, present and future, which determines the nature of the ongoing action.
- d. The existence of certain goals, regardless of the same as predicted by observers.

Interaction is also influenced by factors of imitation, identification, suggestion, and sympathy. These factors underlie a social interaction can take place; these factors are:

a. Imitation Factor

Imitation, namely imitating the activities, behavior, movements of a person or group and making it their own. For example, suppose someone in a community has just moved to another community where there is a mutual cooperation tradition. The person will imitate the activities and rules that exist in the society where the person has just moved. Imitation will make a process of social interaction where a person will know how to behave with other people with the behavior of a person or group in society so that someone will imitate him. An individual performs imitation from the family environment, the environment in which he lives, and the influence of peers. However, imitation can also take place through mass media such as the internet, radio and television (Santosa, 2009).

b. Suggestion Factor

According to (Gerungan, 1996) suggestion in social psychology can be formulated as a process in which an individual accepts a way of seeing or guidelines for behavior from others without prior criticism. Someone will usually be suggested without criticism from others that what someone is going to do is right or wrong according to other people, that is, if someone feels that they will get a big advantage or the person giving the suggestion has authoritarian authority in society. In interacting with the community, there is a process of suggestion, namely by looking at the behavior and guidelines that exist in the community. When someone interacts, it will be suggested by

the guidelines that exist in society or the authority of community leaders as good role models and implemented by other citizens in society.

c. Identification Factor

Identification is a tendency and drive to be like other people. This identification is carried out by people to other people who are considered ideal in one respect, to obtain a system of norms, attitudes and values that are considered ideal and which are still lacking in themselves (Gerungan, 1996). Individuals in society identify figures in society to serve as role models or guidelines in society. The role of identification in society is important because people will continue to identify something that is considered good to be used as a guide in social life so that it will create good interactions in everyday life.

d. Sympathy Factor

Sympathy can be formulated as a feeling of being attracted by one person to another, sympathy does not arise not on a logical rational basis but on the basis of an assessment of feelings (Gerungan, 1996). One example of sympathy is that a person feels attracted to another person because of the way that person behaves, causing a strong desire to establish a relationship with that person. For example, someone who behaves in society has good behavior, likes to help and likes to get along with the surrounding environment. This will create feelings of sympathy for the local residents so that local residents also want to establish good relations, in this case, sympathy affects interactions in society.

The explanation of the concept of social interaction above is relevant to studying the formulation of the research problem because the problem of interaction occurs in the real social world and literary works such as novel and

short stories are representations of the social reality of society. Therefore, descriptions of interactions in the real world are often represented in literary works, so analyzing social interactions in the real world and in literary works is significant.

2. Social Relations

a. Definition of Social Relations

Relationships between people in sociological terms are called relations. Social relations are the result of systematic interactions (series of behavior) between two or more people. Relationships in social relations are relationships that are reciprocal in nature between one individual and another individual and influence each other. Several stages of the occurrence of social relations, namely:

- 1) *Zero contact* is a condition where there is no relationship between two people;
- 2) *Awareness* that is, a person has begun to become aware of the presence of other people;
- 3) *Surface contact* namely the first person to be aware of the same activity by someone around him; and
- 4) *Mutuality* that is, social relations have begun to be established between 2 people who were strangers to each other (Hidayati, 2014).

Social relations, are the result of systematic interactions (a series of behaviors) between two or more people. Thus, the authors conclude that social relations are reciprocal relationships between organizations and other individuals or society and influence each other (Astuti, 2012).

According to Spradley and McCurdy (1972), social relations that exist between individuals that last for a relatively long time will form a pattern, this pattern of relationship is also referred to as a pattern of social relations. Humans are destined as personal beings and at the same time as social beings. As individual beings, humans try to fulfill all their needs for survival. In meeting their needs humans are not able to try alone, they need other people. That is why humans need to relate or relate to other people as social beings. As social beings, in order to live their lives, they always carry out relationships that involve two or more people with a specific purpose. Social relations are dynamic social interactions involving relationships between individuals, between groups, or between individuals and groups. Social relations or social relations are reciprocal relationships between individuals with one another, influencing each other and based on awareness to help each other.

Social relations are the same as social interactions and in the actions of social interactions that actually occur are meaningful human relations. Through this relationship there is a contact of meanings that are responded to by both parties. Meanings are communicated in symbols. For example, pleasure will be expressed with smiles, handshakes, and other positive actions in addition to sensory stimulation or full understanding stimulation.

b. Interpersonal Relations

According to Ruben and Stewart (2006) interpersonal relationships are relationships based on reciprocal message processing. A relationship is formed when there is reciprocal message processing. Meanwhile, according

to Spradley and McCurdy (1975), relationships that occur between individuals that last for a relatively long time will form a pattern, this is called a relationship pattern.

Relationships between people in sociological terms are called relations. Relations are also referred to as social relations which are the result of systematic interactions (series of behavior) between two or more people. Relations are reciprocal relationships between one individual and another individual and influence each other. Relationships will exist if each person can predict accurately the kinds of actions that will come from other parties against themselves. It is said to be systematic because it occurs regularly and repeatedly with the same pattern.

Social relations are reciprocal relationships between individuals with one another, influencing each other and based on awareness to help each other, social relations are a process of influencing between two people.

Whatever form the relationship takes, the dynamics of an interpersonal relationship will grow, develop and end. According to Ruben and Stewart (2006), the stages of interpersonal relationships will include:

1. *Initiation*, is the earliest stage of an interpersonal relationship. At this stage the individual obtains data about each other through nonverbal clues such as smiles, handshakes, glances, and certain body movements.
2. *Exploration*, this stage is the development of the initiation stage and occurs not long after the initiation here begins to explore the existing potential of each individual and study the possibilities that exist from a relationship.

3. *Intensification*, in this stage the individual must decide both verbally and non-verbally whether the relationship will continue or not.
4. *Formalization*, in its development the relationship that has been going on needs to be formalized. At this stage each individual jointly develops symbols, preferred communication patterns, habits and so on.
5. *Redefinition*, over time individuals cannot avoid change. This change can create pressure on the ongoing relationship.
6. *Deterioration*, setback or weakening of a relationship is sometimes not realized by those involved in the relationship. If the setback that occurs is not immediately anticipated, it is not impossible that the relationship that is formed will be destroyed.

One thing to remember is that not all relationships that are formed have to go through the six stages above. Or it could be that one relationship goes through all six while the other only goes through three of the six stages.

Meanwhile Jalaluddin Rakhmat (2007) summarizes the development of interpersonal relationships into three stages, namely:

1. Formation of Relationships

This stage is often referred to as the introductory stage. The focus at this stage is the process of sending and receiving information in the formation of relationships. Information obtained is not always through verbal communication but also through nonverbal communication.

2. Affirmation of Relationships

Interpersonal relationships are not static but always changing. To maintain and strengthen interpersonal relationships certain actions are needed, to restore balance. There are four important factors for maintaining balance,

namely familiarity, control, appropriate response and appropriate emotional tone.

3. Dissolution of Relationships

Even the most harmonious interpersonal relationship can experience disconnection, perhaps because of death, unresolved conflict or so on.

Based on those two theories above, we can examine the social interaction and social relation in the novel *An American Marriage* and *María Concepción* short story to see how marriage in America is viewed between two different times, situation, viewpoint and belief.

D. Related Studies

1. Research on Novels

Literature review includes previous studies or research that is relevant to the research to be carried out. The function of the literature review is to find out the position of the research to be carried out as well as to be a comparison or complement to previous studies.

Much research has been done on novels and short stories, usually related to the analysis of a phenomenon or event. The phenomena examined in a novel are usually also a reflection of life that occurs in society. Several research studies that analyze a novel can be seen in the following studies:

Research (Syamsiah, 2015) entitled "Feminism Study of the Novel *I am Malala (The Girl Who Stood Up For Education and Was Shot By The Taliban)* focuses on the position of women, pro-feminism, and counter-feminism. The novel *I am Malala* tells the story of Malala and her father's struggle against the oppression of women in Pakistan. They face war and violence between Taliban

and Pakistani militants by fighting for women's rights. Through education using pen and voice they try to equalize the rights of men and women.

In the research conducted by Syamsiyah, there are similarities, namely using a literary perspective. The difference is in the focus of the research itself, namely discussing the position of women, professionalism, and counterfeminism, the purpose of which is to describe women in the novel. While the focus of this research is more on the representation of interactions and relationships in marriage that exist in a novel and short story with the setting of American society.

Research by (Rahman, 2016) entitled Gender Discrimination against Papuan Women in the Novel *Isinga* by Dorothe Rosa Herliany focuses on gender discrimination and male characteristics in the novel. The difference lies in the research focus that examines male characteristics. While in this research, the characteristics of men and women are seen in their reactions and relationships in marriage as told in the novel *An American Marriage* and the short story *María Concepción*.

Research (Herawati, 2013) entitled *Citra Perempuan dalam Novel Upacara, Api Awan Asap, dan Bunga Karya Korrie Layun Rampan* discusses the development of gender issues which are depicted in the three novels. The development of gender issues that characterize the three novels, especially in presenting gender roles between men and women both in the domestic and public spheres. This problem is more aimed at the image of traditional and modern women in the Dayak community in the interior of East Kalimantan who still adhere to their ancestral traditions.

Contribution of ideas to change patriarchal culture and traditional views of the Dayak community, namely the gender roles represented by Korrie Layun

Rampan. Through the image of women, it is hoped that women can get out of the patriarchal culture that places women in inferiority and subordination. This is also included in the form of feminism, namely the struggle to equalize men and women.

The similarities of these studies are that they both discuss social phenomena in people's lives, especially about the image of a woman in married life and her relationship with men. The visible difference from Herawati's research is comparing the three novels to see about the existence of literary works with the problems that occur in society, especially gender. While this study only analyzes one novel and one short story which focuses more on examining the interactions and relations of women and men in the construction of a marriage in American society.

Research by (Setyorini, 2017) entitled *Gender Discrimination in the Entrok Novel by Okky Madasari: Feminism Studies* is a study that focuses on gender discrimination experienced by the character Marni which made her have to violate her norms and nature as a woman at that time. This study used a sampling technique used was purposive sampling, while the data collection technique was by reading and note-taking techniques. The equation of this study is that both use data collection techniques with reading and note techniques and data analysis techniques used are content analysis techniques. The difference that is clearly visible is the focus of the research, besides that the approach of the research conducted by Setyorini is existentialist feminism. While this research uses the phenomenological and interaction and relational approaches of Soeryono Soekanto and George Simmel.

Research by (Pranowo, 2013) entitled *Identitas Perempuan dalam Budaya Patriarkis: Sebuah Kajian Tentang Feminisme Eksistensialis Nawal El Sa'adawi dalam Novel "Perempuan Di Titik Nol"* looks more at the analysis of existentialist feminism from the novel *Women at Zero Point*. This research tells a true story and is a "feminist novel" set in Arab Islamic society. Tells about various forms of injustice against a woman because of a very patriarchal culture. The injustice experienced by the female characters in the novel *Perempuan Di Titik Nol* also includes arranged marriages by their parents and forced marriages. According to Sa'adawi in the novel *Perempuan Di Titik Nol*, women must be able to be liberated and have the courage to reveal the veil of their own thoughts, namely false consciousness, minor impressions, and weak attitudes that have been attached to women.

The similarity of this research is that there are similarities in research on phenomena in society regarding a construction, interaction, and relationship in marriage and the representation of women's identity. The difference with this research is that there are different country settings, different cultures, and different lives.

2. Research on Marriage

Meanwhile, many previous studies discussing marriage have also been carried out. Many studies on marriage or marriage discuss various issues and perspectives, for example discussing marriage and traditions in a region. Or also research on mixed marriages between countries. There are also many studies that discuss marriage and its relation to customs or laws in certain societies.

Research conducted by Rahayu, et al (2012), Sinaga, et al (2015), Anggraini, et al (2017), whose study focuses on the perception of a society

regarding marriage rituals. The wedding rituals discussed in this study include krinok performances at weddings, traditions in the traditional Toba Batak wedding process, as well as the tradition of bribes and chatter in the Palembang traditional wedding ceremony. In this study, it does not only discuss the perceptions of the people, but also discusses the social values contained in the traditional marriage rituals practiced by the community.

The similarity between Rahayu, et al (2012), Sinaga, et al (2015), Anggraini, et al (2017), with this research, lies in the focus of the study, namely about people's views and attitudes about marriage. The difference with this research is the focus studied, the research focus on the author's description is the interaction and relationship in a marriage in a novel and short story with the setting of America.

Subsequent research was carried out by Rusli (2012) and Kamal (2014), who discussed the culture of society in general, in this case the traditional marriage tradition. This marriage tradition is explained in general and not specifically for certain regional communities, namely explaining how traditional marriage traditions are for the Bugis and Javanese tribes. Rusli's (2012) and Kamal's (2014) research also provides an overview of what the wedding couple should do, such as the pre-wedding and post-wedding life procedures that they must do.

The similarities between the research conducted by Rusli and this research are that they both examine wedding traditions in society in general. The difference with research conducted by researchers is that this research discusses the phenomenon of interaction and marital relations that occur in American society in a novel and short story.

The novelty of this research with previous research lies in the interaction and relation phenomena and the uniqueness in comparing social phenomena regarding marriage. The uniqueness of the analysis of marital interactions and relations in countries with different cultures, values, customs, traditions, and different social constructions of society, namely America. Another novelty is analyzing the interaction and social relations of marriage in novels and short stories with the American setting as a representation of American society at that time.



CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

Chapter III discussed about the research methods that used in this study. This chapter filled with a list of research procedures that begin by collecting data analyzing evidence that shows the existence of information related to problem formulation. There were three parts of this research method: data type, the analysis of data, and data organizing.

A. Type of Research

This study uses the text document research method, which is a methodology within the scope of the study that focuses on the analysis or interpretation of written materials based on their context. The text document research method provides focus and analysis of the text in depth, both regarding content and meaning, as well as its structure. According to Sugiyono (2015: 121) states that documents are records of events that have passed in the form of writing, drawings, or monumental works of a person. The reason for using this method is because the data generated in the study are not in the form of numbers but in the form of numbers but sentences in literary texts contained in the novel *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones and the short story *María Concepción* by Khatherine Anne Porter. The text document method is used to analyze interactions. and the social relations of marriage that exist in America as in the stories in the novels and short stories.

This research uses the Sociology of Literature approach which has the principle that literary works cannot be fully understood if they leave the socio-cultural aspect behind. Because of this, social and cultural theories and methods

related to the structure of texts, the structure of society and the like have the same principles (Supriyanto, 2021). Likewise, phenomena in society, interactions in society, relations in society, or conflicts in society, become the inspiration for literary works. Therefore, when we examine the interactions and relations of a novel, the approach used is related to interactions and relations, then the theory is also about interactions and relations, the methods used are regarding methods relating to interactions and relations. In short, everything related to the approach we choose is part of a series of activities carried out in accordance with that approach. The choice of approach in literary research should be adjusted to the research problem. Therefore, methodologically and theoretically can be explained.

B. Focus of Research

The focus of the research is the indicators to be studied, the themes to be studied. The research focus is closely related to the research problem. Thus, the focus in this thesis also refers to and originates from the formulation of the research problem, namely:

1. Interaction in marriage in the novel *An American Marriage* and the short story of *María Concepción*. The focus to be studied is social interaction, forms of interaction, interaction driving factors, and interaction inhibiting factors.
2. Social relations in marriage in the novel *An American Marriage* and the short story of *María Concepción*. The focus to be examined is interpersonal relations, social relations and forms or patterns of interpersonal relations and social relations.

C. Research Data Sources

This research data can be obtained from various sources as follows:

1. Primary Data Source

Primary data is data that comes from the original or first source. The original source of this research is the novel *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones, published in 2018 and the short story *María Concepción* by Katherine Anne Porter. *María Concepción* is written in 1939 and included within the collection of short stories published in 1964.

2. Secondary Data Sources

Secondary data sources are complementary or supporting primary data which can be in the form of reviews, scientific research reports, journals related to social interaction and social relations.

D. Data Validity Test

Data validity test is an effort to examine the accuracy of research results by applying certain procedures (Creswell, 2016). For this reason, the main criteria for the research data are valid, reliable, and objective. The data validity test is used to measure the degree of accuracy between the data that occurs on the research object and the data that can be reported by the researcher (Sugiyono, 2015: 263).

At this stage, the credibility and authenticity of the source is tested by using the concept of source criticism, namely external criticism and internal criticism (Pranoto, 2010:35). The first is external criticism, carried out by examining the physical form of the data sources obtained in the form of activities such as checking the condition of documents which include the physical form of documents. Second, internal criticism to determine the credibility or truth of the

contents of the source. Internal criticism is carried out to reduce the level of subjectivity and the method used is to compare it with several relevant sources. In this process internal criticism is more directed from the data found to further ensure the credibility and relevance of the data to the issues raised. In this internal critique, not only primary data sources are observed but also secondary data sources.

E. Data Collecting Techniques

The data analysis technique that will be used in this study is the data analysis technique, which is as follows:

1. Data Collection

The data collection stage in this study was obtained after reading the entire novel *An American Marriage* and the short story of *María Concepción*. After the reading process, sentences containing information are collected according to the focus of the research. The novel *An American Marriage* and the short story *María Concepción* are novels that contain elements of interaction and relationships in marriage, so related book sources are needed that are still relevant to studies of interaction and social and interpersonal relations.

a) Literature Review

Literature study in this research was carried out by looking for research materials, namely the novel *An American Marriage* and the short story *María Concepción*. Then proceed with reading the literary work until an understanding of the content is obtained.

b) Reading Novels

Read the novel *An American Marriage* and the short story *María Concepción* repeatedly until a full understanding of the contents of the novel is obtained. It is necessary to process the reader repeatedly so that the contents of the novel can truly be understood. This reading stage is carried out repeatedly in order to obtain valid data. The reading process is not carried out at one time and at the same time, but is carried out in conjunction with other stages in the data collection process.

2. Data Sorting

After doing a literature study and reading, then proceed with sorting the data. In this sorting process, re-reading is carried out with several reading processes. The next step is to select which text contains aspects of interaction and relations, both social and interpersonal in marriage. In this stage, an initial recording of these texts is carried out, but not yet specified or in the form of raw data.

Next is to do one more reading repeatedly to be able to sort the text more specifically according to the problems in the thesis. Then in the next is to do the documentation or recording.

3. Documentation

Another data collection tool used by the author to support literature study is documentation. The author documents the sentences in the novel *An American Marriage* and the short story *María Concepción* which contain elements of social and personal interactions and social and interpersonal relations. Sentences in literary texts that have been selected by the author are documented in the form of written notes for further analysis.

4. Interpretation

Interpretation is an attempt to interpret the facts obtained from the selected data. The data collected is related to the meaning of the stories in the novels and short stories studied, so as to create a harmony of interpretation related to the discussion being studied. This process plays an important role for the facts to become stories in these novels and short stories, which are integral and chronological, so that all meaningful writing is created.



CHAPTER IV

RESEARCH RESULTS AND STUDY

This section is a chapter or section that answers research questions or research problems. There are two problems studied in this study, namely: First, how is the interaction in marriage in the novel *An American Marriage* and the short story *María Concepción*? This first problem examines a number of things related to the interactions of the characters in the novels and short stories, which include personal interactions, social interactions, the driving factors of interaction in marriage in the novels and short stories studied. Meanwhile on the second problem, namely, how are Social Relations in marriage in the novel *An American Marriage* and the Short Story of *María Concepción*? The focus studied is interpersonal relations, social relations and forms or patterns of interpersonal relations and social relations in the novels and short stories. Before answering these problems, it is necessary to know the characteristics or figures of the characters presented in the novel *An American Marriage* and the short story *María Concepción*.

A. Novel and Short Story Identity

This research examines a novel and a short story. Novel's identity is as follows:

Novel's Title	: An American Marriage
Author	: Tayari Jones
Publication Year	: 2018
First Published Year	: 2018

Publisher : Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill

Novel Synopsis: The novel *An American Marriage* tells the story of Roy, a sales representative for a book company and Celestial, an artist who specializes in baby dolls. They are a newlywed couple. After their first year of marriage, they travelled to Elie, Louisiana to visit Roy's parents. The newlyweds spend the night at the local Motel 6 where they have argument after Roy tells Celestial that his father is not his biological father. In the midst of their fight, they took 15 minutes to compose themselves where Roy came out of their room and met a woman his mother's age with a broken arm who he helped to her room. That night the woman was raped and she called the police, believing that Roy had raped her. While Roy is in prison awaiting trial, Celestial discovers that she is pregnant and the two decide that she must have an abortion. When this case was brought to court, Roy was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

During the first few years Roy and Celestial remained in active correspondence, although Roy grew increasingly frustrated as Celestial's career as an artist began to take off because the gaps between their letters and visits grew longer. During this period Roy discovers that his cellmate Walter is actually his real father and shares the news with Celestial. Also, during this time, Roy learns that his mother, Olive, has died. After three years, Celestial tells Roy that he no longer wants to be his wife, causing a rift between them. Roy refused communication with Celestial for the next two years, but when his case was eventually dropped on appeal and the local DA decided against pursuing the case, he optimistically reached out to Celestial believing that there was still hope for their marriage as he never did divorce her.

Celestial, meanwhile, falls in love with her childhood best friend, Andre. The night she learns that Roy will be released, Andre proposes. Despite her guilt, Celestial decides to divorce Roy and marry Andre. Although her entire family accepts her choice, the news causes a rift between Celestial and her father.

Roy was released from prison early and was collected by his father, Roy Sr. Realizing that Celestial is planning for Andre to pick him up, Roy decides to head to Atlanta just as Andre is about to pick him up, ensuring that he will have time to spend alone with Celestial. Before he leaves, Roy meets his former classmate, Davina, who invites him to dinner. The two end up having sex which Roy finds meaningful. He still decided to go to Atlanta to pursue a relationship with his wife.

In Atlanta, Roy is relieved to learn that his key still works and surprises Celestial by being home when she returns from his doll shop. Roy tries to have sex with her but she asks him to use protection, knowing he doesn't have one. The next day Andre arrives and in the ensuing argument about what happened when Roy is in prison Roy attacks and beats Andre on Celestial's yard. Even though the police are called Celestial managed to smooth things over. Celestial returns with Roy to her house and the next morning and tells Andre that she needs to be with Roy. But that night, when Roy admits to having sex with Davina, Celestial doesn't react so Roy realizes that Celestial really doesn't love him romantically anymore. Even though she was willing to have sex with him, he refused saying that he was never and never will be a rapist.

In the epilogue Roy and Celestial exchange letters. Celestial tells Roy that even though she and Andre have a baby, they have no plans to get married and

Roy tells Celestial that he has reunited with Davina and the two are planning to get married.

This research examines a novel and a short story. Short story's identity is as follows:

Short Story's Title : María Concepción
Author : Katherine Anne Porter
Publication Year : 1979
First Published Year : 1935
Publisher : Harcourt, Brace & World

Short story Synopsis: María Concepción Manríquez is happy with her married life to Juan de Dios Villegas, both were each little more than eighteenth years old. María Concepción is known among the neighbourhood as an energetic and religious person. One day, after she finished doing her morning work routine as usual, she passed near a house where María Rosa, a child of fifteen years old, who lived with her old godmother Lupe.

María Concepción is noting how silent the area is and concluded that both María Rosa and Lupe were not home. After María Concepción continue in her path a bit, she heard laughing of a girl and a man. Thinking that María Rosa has a man she fancied, María Concepción is smiling to herself. She then tried to get a look of María Rosa and her man.

What María Concepción saw is that María Rosa is running and followed by Juan Villegas. María Concepción is shocked to see the two of them. She then saw Juan is flirting with María Rosa. Still shocked by what she saw, María Concepción can only continue walking to her original destination. She did not think to confront Juan, but her anger grows and thoughts about killing Juan and

María Rosa entered her mind. That night, Juan did not come home and instead go to war. María Rosa also following Juan to go to war.

Life in the village continues as usual. People were thinking that it is better that both Juan and María Rosa are not here. Saying María Rosa is safer with the army than with María Concepción at the village. María Concepción did not cry when Juan left her, she also did not cry when her baby is born and died four days later. When Lupe offers her condolence, María Concepción curse her instead. While Juan was away, María Concepción sold her fowls and continue tending to her garden. Because of that, she did not lack any money.

Juan and Rosa come back from war because Rosa is pregnant and about to deliver. While Juan is detained for deserting, Rosa come back home delivers the baby safely with the help of Lupe. Juan then is bailed by his chief from when he was working before leaving the village. He then visits Rosa and saw her with his son. Seeing this, Juan suddenly turns away and goes drinking instead.

When it's time to return, Juan started to walk to Rosa house, but ended up in his own house. He then tried to assert his standing with Concepción. Concepción, after hearing about Juan's return earlier did not yield and even resisting Juan. Still half-asleep after drinking, Juan backs away to a shadowed corner and falls asleep.

Concepción leaves to do her daily routine in panic and confusion. When Concepción come to her senses, she realized that she killed Rosa. After that, Concepción return home and Juan is scared to see her with knife drawn. But Concepción throws the knife away instead and got on her knees and becomes catatonic. Juan consoles her and told Concepción to hide the evidence. Juan then

confronts Concepción about the truth, but Concepción only said that everything is now settled. Juan agrees and promise to not leave her again.

When the investigators come, Juan and Concepción, who is still subdued, follows them to be questioned about Rosa's death. Seeing Rosa's corpse, Concepción began to calm down. When the investigators questioned everyone, Juan and the whole village, even Lupe, defends Concepción. Because lack of evidence, nobody can be accused and the investigators leaves.

Concepción then claimed Rosa's child as her own. Everyone agrees and then they all comes back to their own house. While walking home, Juan only feels bitterness and only wish to sleep. After taking care of the child and while falling asleep, Concepción is filled with strange happiness.

B. Intrinsic Element Analysis

1. Theme

Novel An American Marriage

The theme is the main idea or main idea of a work. This novel told the story of the married couple Roy and Celestial experiencing problems in their marriage when Roy is accused of being guilty and imprisoned. After several years, Celestial said that she no longer wanted to be Roy's wife. After Roy was released because he was proven innocent, he still had hope because Celestial had never divorced Roy. Meanwhile, while Roy was in prison, Celestial fell in love with his childhood friend, Andre. Andre proposes to Celestial the night Celestial gets the news that Roy will be released. Celestial accepts Andre's proposal. After being released, Roy returned home to meet Celestial. On the way home, Roy met Davina, a former schoolmate. They end up sleeping together. Nevertheless, Roy

still wants to return to his wife. After arriving home, Roy got into an argument and finally beat Andre. At the end of the story, Roy and Celestial exchange letters. Celestial said that he and Andre would have children but had no plans to marry, while Roy said that he had met Davina again and planned to marry.

María Concepción Short Story

In the short story, it is told about the marriage between the characters. Maria Concepcion is married to Juan Villegas. One day, he saw that Juan was having an affair with Maria Rosa. Concepcion remains silent about it. Juan and Rosa head to the battlefield. Concepcion didn't cry when Juan left her, nor did she cry when her baby was born and died four days later. Juan and Rosa return from the battlefield. Rosa is pregnant and will soon give birth. Rosa gave birth to her baby safely. Juan returns home to confirm his position with Concepcion. Concepcion refused and did not budge. Concepcion leaves the house for her daily routine in a panic. When he realized, he had killed Rosa. Concepcion returns home and Juan comforts her. Juan orders Concepcion to hide the evidence. When investigators arrived, not only Juan, but the whole village stood up for Concepcion. Concepcion was found not guilty. Concepcion then claims Rosa's child. In the end Juan only felt bitterness while Concepcion was filled with a strange sense of happiness.

2. Characterization

Novel An American Marriage and María Concepción Short Story

Characterization is a description of the characteristics of the characters in the story. Characterization itself is categorized into main character and supporting character. The following is a characterization in the novel An American Marriage and María Concepción short story.

a. Main Characters

The most told characters in this novel are Roy Othaniel Hamilton (hereinafter called Roy) and Celestial Gloriana Davenport (hereinafter called Celestial). They are husband and wife. Roy comes from a black family living in Eloe, Louisiana. His parents were farmers who were not very rich, but were able to send Roy to university. Roy grew up in a happy and loving family from his parents Olive and Big Roy. Roy has a job selling math textbooks, even though Roy doesn't really understand math. Meanwhile Celestial Davenport comes from the cosmopolitan city of Atlanta and comes from a wealthy family. Celestial was an artist. Female and beautiful. Celestial likes to design cloth dolls and cloth souvenir dolls. Roy and Celestial married based on love. They met when Roy was studying in the city of Atlanta.

The next main character is Andre, Celestial's childhood friend and even said that Celestial has known Andre since he was 3 months old. They played together from childhood. Andre is always there for Celestial, especially when Celestial and Roy are having problems. In the end, Andre will also marry Celestial because Roy is in jail on a charge that was not made.

Meanwhile, the main characters in the short story *María Concepción* are *María Concepción Manríquez* (hereinafter called *Concepción*) and *Juan de Dios Villegas* (hereinafter called *Juan*). *Concepción* is described as a woman who lives in a village. *Concepción* is an innocent and quiet wife. Her husband, *Villegas* is described as a man who looks for adventure and life full of exciting things. He has job as excavator of lost city of their ancestors.

Beside *Concepción* and *Juan*, there is one more name which is the main character in the *María Concepción* short story, namely *María Rosa*. *María Rosa* is

described by Concepción as pretty and shy. However, in story she is more along the line of brave and playful.

b. Supporting Characters

The supporting character from the novel *An American Marriage* is named Walter and Davina. Walter is Roy biological father that he met in prison. They got to know each other after being in the same cell. The other is Davina, someone that is an old classmate of Roy. He met her again after getting out of prison by coincidence.

Meanwhile, in *María Concepción* short story, the supporting character is named Givens, Juan superior at work. He is described by Concepción as white man that is not married and did not mind prepare his own food. Later on, he is bailing Juan from trouble but also giving him advice about Juan's relationship.

3. Settings

Setting is a description of the time, place, and atmosphere of the events in the story. The novel *An American Marriage* is set in a village of Elie, Louisiana, which is the village where the Roy family lives. While *Celestial* comes from the cosmopolitan city of Atlanta. The story in this novel takes place around 1969.

While the setting of *María Concepción* short story is never explicitly stated, Concepción herself come from Guadalajara. There is also mention of war, but not what war it is.

C. Interaction in the novel *An American Marriage*

Social interaction is a reciprocal relationship that influences each other. This interaction can be done between individuals and individuals, between groups and individuals or between groups and groups. The prerequisite for the first

interaction is that there must be two-way communication. Examining the interactions in the novel *An American Marriage* and the *María Concepción* short story will, of course, examine the interactions that occur between the characters depicted in the novel and short story.

An American Marriage novel which tells about a marriage relationship with husband and wife characters named Roy and Celestial. Roy hails from the small town of Eloe, Louisiana. He comes from a farming background but he was never really a farmer or rancher. He went to the city of Atlanta and got to know a girl named Celestial. Celestial is a beautiful artist from Atlanta. Roy and Celestial then married, for a year and a half they were very happy, at least for Roy (Roy said to himself) (page, 11). At the beginning of their marriage relationship, they were described as normal and fine. This means that Roy and Celestial live a normal married life. They married well in the church according to the culture and customs of American society. They married at about 29 years old. After a year and a half of being together, Celestial and Roy were happy and their communication was also smooth. Roy as a tutor for math textbooks and Celestial as an artist who likes to make and dress dolls out of cloth. In this novel, not much is told in detail about the beginning of their happy marriage. The real story begins when their marriage is one and a half years old.

One day Roy invited Celestial to visit Roy's parents' house. They deliberately left by driving a car. Arriving at Roy's parents' house, they were greeted happily. After chatting with Roy's parents, they talked about Celestial's desire to have children, Celestial imagined having children and becoming a mother, Celestial had also imagined Roy's parents and their parents would become grandparents. They talk over espresso and croissants (page 36). After being

satisfied telling and joking with Roy's parents, Celestial and Roy decided to stay at a small hotel instead of a five-star hotel. The name of the hotel is Piney Woods. It was while staying at the Piney Woods motel that a major event occurred that destroyed Roy and Celestial's marriage. Incident in Piney Woods turned the happy life of Roy and Celestial upside down when Roy was accused of raping a woman in room 206 of the Piney Woods motel. Celestial did her best to explain to the judge that it was impossible for Roy to rape the woman in room 206 because last night Celestial and Roy slept together in their own room. Even the 12 people in the court that tried Roy didn't believe Celestial's words (page, 40).

The court decided that Roy was sentenced to 12 years. Celestial immediately thought *"Twelve years is what they gave him. We will be forty-three years old when he is released. I couldn't even imagine myself at that age"* (page, 41). Roy was so weak that he had to sit up. He cried but was helpless. In the end Roy remained in prison. A new chapter in Roy and Celestial's married life begins.

The communication between Roy and Celestial was through letters. Celestial's first letter was written while she was sitting at the kitchen table. Celestial, tells how he now lives alone and begins to find out that there are many differences between reality and life. She likened both eggs to the difference between raw eggs and scrambled eggs. Celestial wrote how she felt tired of having to go home and be alone at home, Celestial could still feel Roy's presence in the house, his pulse, his veins, his heartbeat was very close to Celestial's. The first Celestial letter to Roy expresses the confusion and longing of a wife (page, 42).

In the following letters that Celestial sent to Roy, she still told stories about her daily life and her longing for Roy. Likewise, Roy's reply letter to Celestial. Communication and interaction between the two are indeed hindered by different

spaces, but it can still run smoothly even if it's only through letters. There were a few times they didn't write because Celestial was busy making cloth dolls which was her favourite. Likewise, Roy with the busy routine in prison. The factor that drives the interaction between Celestia and Roy is the sympathy factor. According to Gerungan, sympathy can be formulated as a feeling of being attracted by one person to another, sympathy does not arise not on a logical rational basis but on the basis of an assessment of feelings (Gerungan, 1996). Even though in the case of Celestial and Roy the interaction factor in terms of sympathy is definitely more than just sympathy because they have a husband and wife relationship, but if it is categorized in the factors that drive interaction, it includes the sympathy factor. In fact, in a husband and wife relationship like Celestial and Roy, there is definitely not only the sympathy factor that lies behind their interaction, there are several other factors, namely the empathy factor, the obligation factor, and the affection factor between husband and wife.

The form of interaction and interaction factors carried out by Celestial and Roy become the central theme in the novel *An American Marriage* with the setting of a household journey where the distance is separated as a result of the husband being imprisoned. The form of interaction is a form of influencing and changing between individuals or between individuals and groups or between groups. This form of influencing interaction was also carried out by Roy on Celestial at the beginning of his trial. Roy said if something bad happened in his trial and it wasn't as expected, Roy asked Celestial not to wait for him. As Roy said below:

“If this doesn't go the way we want it to,” Roy said the day before his trial,

“I don't want you to wait for me. Keep making your dolls and doing what you need to do.”

“This is going to work out,” I promised. “You didn’t do it.” “I’m looking at so much time. I can’t ask you to throw your life away for me.” (page, 39).

Celestial knew that what Roy said and what was in Roy's heart were different. Celestial could see it from his eyes. So, Celestial replied:

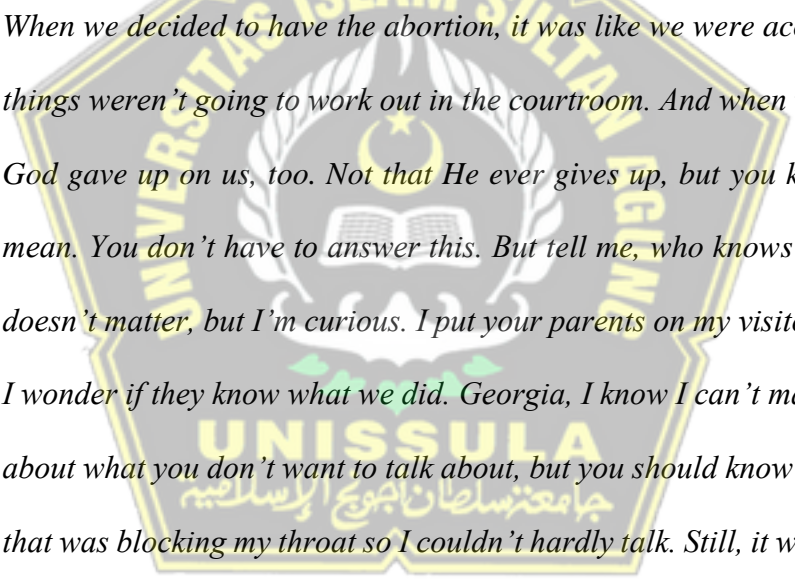
His words and his eyes were speaking two different languages, like someone saying no while nodding his head yes. “No one is going to throw anything away,” I said.

I had faith in those days. I believed in things. (page, 39).

From the brief conversation it appears that since the beginning of the trial Roy had warned Celestial not to wait for him and waste time of her life, but Celestial said nothing was wasted, and Celestial believed many things. This sentence by Celestial seemed to want to show Roy that Celestial was not affected by Roy's words that was meant to influence her to leave him. Instead, Celestial convinced and influenced Roy that she would still believe in many things. In the following letters that Celestial sent to Roy, Celestial still always convinced Roy that she really loved Roy and hoped that the sentences in her letters could make Roy calm. Like the following excerpt from the Celestial letter:

“.....please know that it’s because it’s all very new and I’m so agitated. Nothing has changed. I love you as much as I did the day I married you. And I will always”.(page, 48).

The interaction between Roy and Celestial seemed very intense during Roy's early days in prison. They can always communicate and interact through letters. Interaction and communication through letters are not just about telling light daily events and entertaining each other, but also for deciding important matters, they communicate via letters. There was an important event that they decided by letter, namely the decision that Roy wanted Celestial to have an abortion because Roy didn't want his son to know that his father was a convict. Even though Roy found it very difficult to talk about it with Celestial let alone through letters, Roy finally wrote it anyway. It can be seen in Roy's Letter to the Celestials as follows:



When we decided to have the abortion, it was like we were accepting that things weren't going to work out in the courtroom. And when we gave up, God gave up on us, too. Not that He ever gives up, but you know what I mean. You don't have to answer this. But tell me, who knows about it? It doesn't matter, but I'm curious. I put your parents on my visitors' list and I wonder if they know what we did. Georgia, I know I can't make you talk about what you don't want to talk about, but you should know what it was that was blocking my throat so I couldn't hardly talk. Still, it was beautiful to see you. I love you more than I can say here.

Your husband,

Roy

(page, 49)

Even though Celestial was very sad, Celestial complied with Roy's request to have an abortion. It appears that the interaction that occurs is "the interaction

of mutual influence and mutual need". This can be seen from Celestial's answer through his letter as follows:

Dear Roy,

Yes, baby, yes, I think about it, but not constantly. You can't sit with something like that every single day. But when I do, it is with sadness more than regret. I understand that you're in pain, but please do not ever send me another letter like the one you sent last week. (page, 49)

Celestial's reply letter to Roy clearly shows that Celestial feels sad and hurt to agree to have an abortion. But for Roy's sake she did it. Finally Celestial asked Roy not to talk about it anymore in his letters like last week's letter which was about discussing abortion, because Celestial felt hurt when she remembered that.

Roy also realized how difficult it was to be a "black" person in America. And Roy wants to teach his child about it. In the future, if his child is old enough and he's not in prison anymore. As quoted from the letter below:

.....This whole ordeal would just be a story we would tell him when he was older, to teach him how to be careful as a black man in these United States. (page, 49)

Apart from the main characters Celestial and Roy in the novel *An American Marriage*, there is a supporting character named Andre. Andre is Celestial's best friend since childhood. The Andre-Celestial-Roy relationship is very intimate and very open. Even when Celestial married, it was Andre who was the witness. After Roy was imprisoned, Andre was also still very close to the married couple. Andre always supports whatever Celestial wants, both small things and big and important things. Like in an incident when Celestial had an

abortion, it was Andre who took her to the hospital and protected Celestial. As in the following Celestial letters:

“.....I didn’t tell anyone but Andre. All he said was, “You can’t go by yourself.” He drove me and he covered my head with his jacket as we made our way past the chanting demonstrators and their disgusting signs. When it was done, he was waiting for me. Afterward, in the car, he said something that I want to share with you. He said, “Don’t cry. This isn’t your last chance.” Roy, he’s right. You and I will have babies in the future. We will be parents. Like they say, “A girl for you, a boy for me,” or was it the other way around? But when you get out, we can have ten babies if that’s what you want. I promise you that. I love you. I miss you. (page, 51)

In the letter it appears that Andre and Celestial’s relationship is very close and also able to share very important matter and they don't want others to know, but Celestial trusts Andre. Celestial also had time to comfort Roy when they were released from prison, they would have ten babies.

Apart from receiving full support from Andre as his closest person, Celestial also received full support from her parents. Celestial’s parents fully support Celestial’s hobby of making dolls as souvenirs and even Celestial’s parents made a kind of shop to display Celestial's work so that it would be easy for someone to buy. Celestial wanted to have a good, high-end toy shop. It was her father who sponsored the fund for her. Here is Celestial’s story about it:

“.....Things have reached critical mass and I’ve taken steps to secure a retail space. It’s not quite like you imagined—more boutique than toy store. Think of it as high end for toys but low end for art. I have to say that it’s rewarding to give a pretty brown doll to a pretty brown girl and watch

her squeeze and kiss it. It's different from watching a collector take it away in a wooden crate.

I wonder if maybe I'm compromising. It's art but not Art. Look at me, worried about selling out before I even hang out my shingle. And speaking of money, I think you know what I'm going to say next. I have exactly one investor, and it is my father. Because he is sinking so much capital into it, we put everything in his name. ...” (page, 56-57)

From Celestial's story to Roy in the letter, it can be seen that Celestial's interactions with her father were also close and Celestial's family fully supported Celestial's condition, who was being left by her husband because he was in prison. Parents supported Celestial in filling the days waiting for Roy to return from prison by working on making dolls and selling them himself in his own shop. Therefore, Celestial's father gave capital to her.

In their interactions as husband and wife, Celestial and Roy also experience ups and downs. They also had fights in their household life. This was remembered by Roy when he was imprisoned and Roy did not want to remember the events of the fight. Roy also has concerns because in Atlanta there are lots of cool men carrying suitcases and working. Roy realized that. Roy expressed to Celestial how upset he was not being around Celestial. As an excerpt from Roy's letter as follows:

“.....The one thing I don't miss is how we fought so much. I can't believe we wasted so much time fussing over nothing. I think about every time I hurt you. I think about the times when I could have made you feel secure,

but I let you worry simply because I liked being worried about. I think about that and I feel like a damn fool. A damn lonesome fool.

Please forgive and please keep loving me.

You don't know how demoralizing it is to be a man with nothing to offer a woman. I think of you out there and there are so many dudes in Atlanta with their Atlanta briefcases and Atlanta jobs and Atlanta degrees. Trapped in here, I can't give you anything. But I can offer up my soul and that's the realest thing....”(page, 58)

Roy's letter shows that there are constraints in the relationship between Celestial and Roy, reasonable constraints due to the separation of distance, space and time.

Passing of time, spatial separation, and distance all affect the relationship between Celestial and Roy. They began to rarely exchange letters. Celestial became increasingly busy and famous as a doll making artist, she even won a doll making contest and became famous in her town. When Roy's has been in prison for 2 years, Roy also began to be jealous of Andre and Celestial's relationship. Appears in the excerpt of their letter as follows:

“...PS: Was Andre there? Were the two of you going around telling everybody how you have been best friends since you were two little babies taking a bath in the sink? Was everybody saying how cute that is? Celestial, I may have been born yesterday but not last night”. (page, 63-64)

The letter was replied by Celstial as follows:

“...PS: As for your remarks about Andre, I will not even dignify that silliness with a response. I’m sure by now you have come to your senses and I am accepting your apology in advance”. (page, 64)

After 2 years of Roy's imprisonment, communication and interaction began to be constrained, not as smooth as in the early days of Roy's imprisonment. Celestial is getting busier with fairs and shops, so she doesn't have time to write letters or visit the prison. This forced Roy to write a letter to Celestial's father asking about Celestial because she had not visited or written a letter for a long time. It can be seen here that to smooth interaction and communication, Roy needs a mediator, namely Celestial's father. Although it turned out that Celestial's father couldn't help Roy in secret. Celestial's father would talk to Celestial as a father advising his daughter. In this case, it appears that the interaction between Celestial is going quite well and harmoniously. As the following quote from the letter:

“...Mr. Davenport, Celestial has not come to Louisiana to visit me in two months now. We have not had any significant arguments or disagreements. I was expecting her in September, but she didn't show. She sent word that she was having car trouble, and I expected her the following weekend. But I have not seen her at all, nor have I received any correspondence. Mr. D, I'm hoping that you will speak to her on my behalf. I know you will say that I should reach out to her myself. Trust me, I have tried. When you sent me away, you said that maybe I didn't know her well enough to marry her. This is why I'm turning to you now. I obviously do not know her as well as I thought. You, on the other hand, have known her all her life, and maybe you will know what to say to her to bring her back to me. Please tell her that I understand that being

married to an incarcerated man is a major sacrifice. I am not accustomed to asking for things. I have worked for everything I have. I wouldn't have been bold enough to show my face in your house if I hadn't put in the effort. In my current position, there is no work that I can do to win her love. There is no work I can do to convince you, as her father, that I'm worthy. Before, I had my good job and my gold cu links. What do I have today? Only my character. I know she can't wear my character on her left hand, and I know it doesn't pay bills or father children. But it's what I have and I believe that it should count for something. Thank you, sir, for reading this. I hope you will consider my request. And please do not share this with Celestial or her mother. Let this please stay between us as men.

Sincerely,

Roy O. Hamilton Jr. (page, 67)

Roy's request to Celestial's father to ask news about Celestial and ask Celestial to write a letter or visit Roy in prison was responded to by a reply letter from Celestial's father as follows:

Franklin Delano Davenport

9548 Cascade Rd.

Atlanta, GA 30331

Dear Roy,

I am pleased to hear from you, as I think of you often.....Son (and I use the word deliberately), I think you are misremembering our exchange when you came asking for

Celestial's hand. I didn't refuse you. I merely explained to you that my daughter is not my property.....

All that said, I'll speak to Celestial about why it is that she has put her visiting schedule on hiatus. In the spirit of disclosure, I admit that I was not aware of this until now. But I must make it clear to you that I cannot speak "on your behalf." I can only talk to her on behalf of myself, as her father.

I hope you will not interpret this as rejection, because that is not my intention. You are a part of our family and every one of us holds you in highest regard.

I feel obligated to tell you as well that I will be sharing your letter with Celestial. I am her father and I cannot collude against her. She is the joy of my world and my only living blood relative.

But I can tell you this: I know the sort of woman we have raised her to be. Her mother was loyal to me, even when I didn't deserve it, and I feel confident that my daughter will be no less steadfast.

Please write to me again, son. I'm always glad to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Franklin Delano Davenport

cc: C. G. Davenport

(page, 68-69)

It turned out that Roy and Celestial's relationship was getting more and more tenuous, the less they communicated, more distance they felt. It got to the point where Celestial wrote a letter to Roy saying that she could no longer live a married life like that. Celestial could no longer wait for Roy to get out of prison. Celestial didn't blame Roy but blamed time which was not on their side. Like the Celestial letter as follows:

Dear Roy,

This is the letter I promised that I would never send. Before I go any further, I want to tell you that I am sorry. I want to tell you that even typing these words is killing me. I won't say that this will hurt me more than it hurts you because I know how much you're hurting every day and no matter what is happening to me, it will never compare. I understood that I'm not in the same agony as you are, but I'm in pain and I cannot continue to live this way.

I can't go on being your wife. In some ways I feel like I never even got to try my hand at that role. We were only married a year and a half before lightning struck, counting off the time in months like you do with a baby. I have done my best to be married without actually being a wife for three years now.

You're going to think that this is about another man, but this is about the two of us, about our delicate cord that has been shredded by your incarceration. At your mother's funeral, your father showed what the connection is between husband and wife.

If he could have, he would have gone into the grave instead of her. But they lived under one roof for more than thirty years. In some ways they grew together and grew up together, and had she not died, they would have grown old together. That's what a marriage is. What we have here isn't a marriage. A marriage is more than your heart, it's your life. And we are not sharing ours.

I blame it on time, not on you or me. If we put a penny in a jar for each day we have been married, and we took a penny away every day we've

been apart, the jar would have been depleted a long time ago. I've been trying to find ways to add more pennies, but our visits in that busy room at that sad table send me home with empty hands. I know this and you do, too. The last three times I have visited, we said almost nothing to each other. You can't bear to hear about my days and I can't bear to hear about yours.

I'm not abandoning you. I will never abandon you. My uncle will continue to file appeals. I'll continue to keep your commissary up to date and I'll visit you every month. I can come as your friend, as your ally, as your sister. You're a part of my family, Roy, and you will always be. But I can't be your wife.

Love (and I mean it),

Celestial (page, 78)

Of course, Roy didn't agree with Celestial's wish but he was helpless. It can be seen that there is an unequal relationship between Roy and Celestial. Regarding this unbalanced relationship, it will be discussed in the next section on Relation.

Until the period between 3 to 5 years Roy was imprisoned, Roy and Celestial's relationship worsened. There was no communication, no interaction, and Roy even asked the lawyer to remove Celestial from his visit list. Roy's short letter to his attorney shows just that:

Roy O. Hamilton Jr.

PRA 4856932

Parson Correctional Center

3751 Lauderdale Woodyard Rd.

Jemison, LA 70648

Dear Mr. Banks:

This will be your last act as my attorney. Please remove the following person from my visitors list:

Davenport, Celestial Gloriana

Sincerely,

Roy O. Hamilton Jr. (page, 80)

Even though occasionally Celestial still asked how Roy was doing through short letters, the interaction had become very formal. Not like husband and wife anymore. Roy had never replied to Celestial's letters since Celestial wanted to separate from him. Until then 5 years passed and Roy was released because the accusations were not proven. Roy writes a letter to Celestial informing him that he will be released.

Celestial tells Andre who has always been by her side that Roy will be released, Celestial is worried because over the past 3 years her relationship with Andre has turned into lovers who live together.

Andre is happy that Roy was released but happy as a friend. Andre has spoken to a lawyer about Celestial's divorce, and he has bought a ring for Celestial and is going to marry Celestial. The following quote shows just that:

On the fourth Wednesday in November, I came home from work to find Celestial in my kitchen, wearing her sewing smock and drinking red wine from a bubble glass. I knew she was agitated from the sharp click of her nails against the tabletop.

"Baby, what's wrong?" I asked, taking off my coat.

"Uncle Banks worked a miracle," she said, rubbing her hands

over her naked head. “Roy’s getting out.”

“Yeah,” Celestial said. “Finally. It’s been five years.”

“I’m happy for Roy. He was my friend.”

“I know,” she said. “I know you don’t wish anything bad on him.”

“You think he wants to come back here?” Celestial asked. “In his letter he doesn’t mention any plans.”

“How could he have plans?” I said. “He has to start over.”

“Maybe he could come here,” she said. “You and I could stay in my house and we could set him up in your house... .”

“No man is going to go for that.”

“He might?”

I shook my head. “Nope.”

“But you are glad he’s out,” she said. “You don’t begrudge him that?”

“Celestial,” I said. “What kind of person do you think I am?”

Of course, I was happy to hear that he was being set free. Nothing would change the fact that my chest filled with gratitude on behalf of Roy Hamilton, my friend, my Morehouse brother. Still, there were things that Celestial and I needed to discuss. Yes, last month she finally agreed to talk to Banks about divorce papers, and yesterday I went to the jeweler and selected a ring, something my mama had been predicting since I was three years old. My idea was to wake her with it tomorrow, Thanksgiving Day. The stone wouldn’t put your eye out; Celestial had already been down that yellow brick road. I didn’t even go for a diamond at all, choosing instead a dark oval-cut ruby, shot through with fire, mounted on a plain gold band.

It was as though her singing voice had been solidified into a jewel. (resume from page, 94-96)

Celestial's turmoil continues, but Andre is always optimistic in reassuring Celestial that they should tell Roy about their relationship. Even Andre wants the 23rd before Christmas they will get married. Like the following quotes:

"Dre," she said, turning her eyes back to the yard strewn with leaves.

"What are we going to do?"

In response, I positioned myself behind her and circled my arms around her waist, crouching a little to rest my chin against her sharp shoulder.

Celestial said it again: "What are we going to do?"

I liked that she used the word we. It wasn't much to grab hold of, but let me tell

you, I gripped it with both hands.

I said, "We have to tell him.

That's first. The question of where he will live—all that comes later.

That's details." And she nodded but didn't say anything else.

"Four weeks?" I said.

She nodded. "Give or take. December 23. Merry Christmas."

"Let me go talk to him," I said.

(page, 96)

Celestial cannot accept Andre's proposal because they are still married to Roy. Even though Celestial has lived together with Andre, if Celestial has to marry Andre Celestial is still unsure because she is still Roy's wife. Like the following quote:

“Dre,” she said. “What do you want me to do?”

“I want to get married, make everything legit, aboveboard. You have to tell me, Celestial. You can’t leave me hanging.”

“The timing’s not right, Dre.”

“Just tell me what you want. Either you want to marry me, or you don’t. Either we’ve been playing house for almost three years, or we’ve been here building something real.”

“Is this an ultimatum?”

“You know me better than that. But, Celestial, I need to know and I need to know now.”

I loosened my grip and she went to her side of the mattress and I went to mine, like boxers in our corners.

“Listen,” I whispered into the perfume of her skin.

“Roy being locked up isn’t why we came together. You hear me?”

“I know,” she said, sighing. “I know, I know, I know.”

“Celestial. Please, let’s get married.”

In the dark, she spoke with her lips so close to mine that I could taste her words, rich and peaty. (page, 98-99)

The interaction after Roy gets out of prison starts with the night before he gets out of prison his father -- Walter -- is still in prison. Walter talked to Roy about many things. Including about Celestial. Even though Walter, as Roy's biological father, never knew Celestial. This indicates there was a one-sided interaction between Walter and Celestial. Walter knows who Celestial is, but Celestial doesn't know who Walter is. Roy's interactions with his father, who

raised him even though he was not his biological father, are still well-established, even though Roy's mother has died. This was demonstrated by Big Roy (as Roy called his father who raised him) by picking Roy up from prison.

Big Roy also showed concern by asking how he was doing and asking if Roy wanted to meet Celestial. Roy replied that he really wanted to meet Celestial but Celestial was in Atlanta which is 507 miles from Louisiana. Big Roy asked Roy to make sure whether Roy knew if Celestial was still his wife. Roy replied that Celestial had not divorced him yet. This convinced Roy that he would still be able to meet Celestial.

In the end of the story, the interaction between Celestial, Roy, and Andre become a bit friendlier again. Roy now exchanges letters with Celestial. Talking about their life after the whole fiasco. Celestial is now living with Andre but did not go through with their plan of marriage. Roy, on other hand is planning to marry Davina.

D. Interaction in the María Concepción short story

María Concepción short story is about married couple in some kind of village. The wife is named María Concepción and the husband is named Juan Villegas. Concepción is working as some kind of butcher or meat seller, while Juan is and excavator in some site that is believed to be a lost city.

Originally, Concepción is thinking that her married life is happy and good. However, after one day found out about her husband is cheating on her with a girl, instead of confronting her husband, she kept quiet. In the grand scheme of things, it did not really matter as Juan is going to war with his lover, Rosa, that same day. Nevertheless, the interaction, or the lack of interaction would probably lead to problem in future if Juan did not go to war.

After her baby died, Concepción did not weep, that is because she feels isolated and numb. The reason is that lives in the village continue as usual after the villager knows that Juan is leaving with Rosa. Concepción feels that no one would lend her an ear. This is indicated by the conversation with Lupe after her baby died, in which Concepción curse Lupe instead of accepting sympathy (page, 9).

Things pick up again after Juan and Rosa come back from war. Juan is captured by guard on basis of desertion while Rosa is escorted back to her house. In her house, Lupe help Rosa delivers her baby.

Givens is notified about Juan capture and bailed him out. From this we can conclude that Juan and Givens is very close. The following exchange is solidifying that:

"Blessed be the day your servant Juan Villegas first came under your eyes. From this day my life is yours without condition, ten thousand thanks with all my heart!"

"For God's sake stop playing the fool," said Givens irritably.

"Some day I'm going to be five minutes too late."(page, 11)

Juan attraction with Rosa is explained in his own word to Givens as follows:

"... .With María Rosa it is all different. She is not silent; she talks. When she talks too much, I slap her and say, Silence, thou simpleton! and she weeps. She is just a girl with whom I do as I please. I will not leave María Rosa, because she pleases me more than any other woman."(page, 12)

From there, it can be concluded that Juan has some strange way in experiencing joy. In which obedient wife like Concepción is less appealing compared to girl like Rosa who constantly talk back to him. He feels superior after abusing Rosa.

After coming back home, Juan tried to re-establish himself in his home in the eyes of Concepción. However, Concepción did not yield and actually fight back, making Juan briefly amazed. He gave up re-establishing himself and just fall asleep in a corner. (page, 13)

That interaction means that Concepción is no longer want to be the obedient wife she was before. This amazed Juan and makes him feels conflicted as he was never treated this way, and just giving up and avoid further confrontation.

The only one interaction between Concepción and Rosa in the entire short story is not even an exchange of words. It takes place in which Concepción murder Rosa in fit of rage and sorrow after seeing Juan after a year being abandoned. (page, 13)

After coming back home, Concepción is seen by Juan. Juan feels dread seeing Concepción is holding her knife and looming over him. However, when Concepción explains what she has done, Juan instead says the following:

"Oh, thou poor creature! Oh, madwoman! Oh, my María Concepción, unfortunate! Listen. . . Don't be afraid. Listen to me! I will hide thee away, I thy own man will protect thee! Quiet! Not a sound!" (page, 14)

This interaction proves that Juan is actually completely honest when talking with Givens when bailed out. While Juan is cheating with Rosa, he still has feelings for Concepción. Either out of obligation as being married in church

or real affection did not matter. Juan still trying to protect Concepción because of that.

In the end of story, the interaction between Concepción and Juan is not clear, but at least it seems that they both willing to try things out again as husband and wife. Whether or not it works out for them is not alluded at all in the short story.

E. Relation in the novel An American Marriage

Roy's social relationship with other inmates, namely Walter, reflects a relationship of mutual need, sometimes even an unequal relationship between Roy and Walter. This happened because Roy needed something and only Walter could help, therefore it appears that in this relationship Roy does not have bargaining positions. This is reflected in Roy's story on Celestial in one of his letters as follows:

....I haven't even been here three months, and already I have had three cell partners. The one I have now says he's here for good, and he says it like he has some type of inside track. His name is Walter. He's been incarcerated for most of his adult life, so he knows what's what around here. I write letters for him but not gratis. It's not that I'm not compassionate, but you get no respect when you do things for free. (This I learned in the workforce, and it's ten times as true in here.) Walter doesn't have money, so I let him give me cigarettes. (Don't make that face. I know you, girl. I don't smoke them. I trade them for other things—like ramen noodles. I kid you not.) (page, 44)

In the letter, it seems that Roy feels under pressure "must help" Walter because Walter has someone in or part of the kitchen who can help them with eating. It appears in Roy's short quote as follows:

The letters I write for Walter are to women he meets through personal ads. You would be surprised how many ladies want to pen-pal with convicts. (Don't get jealous, ha ha.) Sometimes I get irritated, staying up so late answering all his questions. (page, 44)

Roy is forced to answer Walter's fan letters. More precisely Walter's pen pals and those are girls.

The unequal form of social relations between Celestial and Roy was also shown in Celestial's letter to Roy when Celestial actually objected to having an abortion. There was an unequal relationship even though Celestial was aware that she was the one who was pregnant and had the right to control her own body but finally agreed to abort the pregnancy for Roy Celestial felt sick when she had to sign the abortion decree alone. As written in the excerpt of the Celestial letter as follows:

.... Roy, you know I hated to do it. However much it hurts you, remember that I am the one it happened to. I am the one who was pregnant. I'm the one who isn't pregnant anymore. Whatever you feel, think about what I must feel. Just like you can say I don't know what it is like to be in prison, you don't know what it's like to go to a clinic and sign your name in the book. (page, 50)

Celestial felt sick and went mad to have an abortion. Celestial faced the event and tried to forget it by working like a madman. She forgot about the

incident by sewing dolls until late at night to forget about having a baby. As written in Celestial's letter to Roy next:

....I'm dealing with it in the way that I do, through my work. I've been sewing like a crazy person, late at night. The dolls remind me of a doll I had when I was little, when you could go to Cleveland, Georgia, and adopt a "baby." ... (page, 50)

Regarding the issue of the abortion that Celestial had to do, even though at first Celestial didn't agree and felt sick but finally agreed, the relationship between Roy and Celestial became a balanced relationship. This was because Celestial then thought that she couldn't get pregnant with the husband in prison even though she knew that the husband was innocent. As written in the Celestial letter as follows:

..... But how could I think about being a mother with my husband in prison? I know you're innocent, there is not one doubt in my mind, but I also know that you're not here. This isn't a game, a drill, or a movie. (page, 51)

Roy's memories of the case of his biological mother who was left by his father in prison with her pregnant belly protruding was what made Roy decide to order Celestial to have an abortion. The memory of Walter, his biological father leaving his mother when she was pregnant, made Roy imagine if that had happened to Celestial. Roy couldn't stand it. When Celestial informs him that her pregnancy test is positive, Roy is confused, as is the following excerpt from the letter:

“....Celestial, I think it was because I know I wasn't there for you when you told me the test was positive. I said, “What do you want to do?” What I did was the same as leaving town.(page, 73)

Roy then wrote:

“....that he had left other women with big bellies. That this was the way things were then. But I wasn't thinking about him, Celestial, I was thinking about you and what a piece of shit I am. This is the truth. Celestial, I want to be mad at him. He left my mama like a two-dollar trick, but he would have been a terrible father to me in my real life. He wouldn't have sacrificed to get me to Morehouse. (page, 73)

It was that event that prompted Roy to suggest Celestial abort the pregnancy because he did not want Celestial to experience the same thing as Roy's mother. This abortion case by Celestial is an interpersonal relationship. According to Ruben (2006), the stages of interpersonal relationships will include: Initiation, Exploration, Intensification, and Redefinition. Initiation is the process by which individuals obtain non-verbal data, such as body shape, smiles, handshakes, and certain body movements. Roy started to Initiate when he received news that Celestial was pregnant. Roy couldn't imagine his wife's body shape changing, her stomach getting bigger while she was in prison. Therefore, Roy began to Initiate Celestial to have an abortion. Exploration is a further stage of initiation. At the Exploration stage, the possibilities for a relationship are considered if it is carried out. At this stage, Roy began to consider several things if Celestial continued to maintain her pregnancy or have an abortion. Roy began to think about the pros and cons. The next stage is Identification. At this stage of Identification is the

stage of deciding something both verbally and non-verbally. In Roy's case, Roy decided to identify the stage through a letter, namely a letter to Celestial asking Celestial to have an abortion. The final stage is Redefinition, this stage is the stage of change after individuals experience pressure. In the case of Celestial's abortion, they (Celestial and Roy) were both under pressure, which prompted them to make a change by making the decision to have an abortion because they thought it was the most rational action. Roy and Celestial finally agreed to have an abortion after having long communications by letter, after initiating, exploring and identifying, and finally redefining.

An unequal relationship also occurred between Roy and Celestial. Roy clearly rejected Celestial's wishes but he was powerless. When Celestial stuck to his conviction that she would write the last letter as a wife, but would still support her as a friend. Roy objected to become a friend as Roy still wanted Celestial as his wife, but Celestial still refused and was firm in her convictions. Even Roy was aware that Celestial became the empowered woman she was taught at university, but Roy didn't want Celestial to do that for him. This can be seen in the following excerpts from their letter:

Dear Georgia,

What do you want me to say? Am I supposed to say that I'm okay with us just being friends? Maybe it's me, but I made a different interpretation of "till death do us part." Because the last I checked, I wasn't dead yet. But you do what you have to do. Be

an empowered woman or whatever they taught you in college.

Leave a brother when he's down. I never thought you would be this kind of person. There are women around here who have been coming to see

their men for decades, riding buses that leave Baton Rouge at 5 a.m. Walter has women he never even met in person and they come to see him, and when they get here, they do more than talk. Some women bunk in their cars in the parking lot so they can be in the visiting room as soon as it opens. Before she died, my mother was here every week. What is it that makes you

think that you're so much better than all of them?

Don't come here talking about you're here to be my friend. I don't need friends.

ROH (page, 78)

Celestial replied to Roy's letter, who wrote that Celestial remained firm in her decision to leave Roy or not think of him as husband anymore and only just as a friend. It turns out that Celestial refuses to remain Roy's wife and visits Roy in prison because she doesn't want to accept harassment from prison officials. Prison officials harass women who are going to visit their imprisoned husbands or relatives. The Celestials didn't want that to happen. This is clearly written in the Celestial letter as follows:

Dear Roy,

I didn't expect you to receive my very honest letter with confetti and a ticker-tape parade, but I did at least expect you to take a moment to consider my perspective. Are you really comparing me with the women who crowd the crack-of-dawn bus to prison? I know them, too. I've met them myself. They organize their whole lives around coming to Parson; besides working, it's all they do. Every week they are strip-searched. More

than once, I've had to let some guard put her hand in my panties just so I can sit across the table from you. This is what you want for me?

This is what you want for my life? Is this the way you love me?

You always talk about how you understand that this is hard. You slump in your chair, admitting that you can't give me what I need. But now you act like you're confused. For more than three years, I've been there in body and in spirit. But I've got to change

the way I'm doing things, or I won't have any spirit left. I said in my last letter and I'll say it again. I'll support you. I'll visit you. I just can't do it as your wife.

C (page, 79)

It is clear from Celestial's letter that there is an unequal relationship between the prison staff and the women who are going to visit their husbands or family. In order for them to meet relatives or husbands who are in prison, it turns out that women must first accept harassment. There appears to be an unequal relationship and there is gender-based violence. Relationships that do not allow women to have choices, relationships that are used by men (prison officials) against women because women do not have a bargaining position. Including Celestials, so Celestials don't want to experience it. But Celestial's action of asking Roy for a divorce also created another unequal relationship between Celestial and Roy. Roy had no bargaining power against Celestials because he was imprisoned.

After 5 years, Roy was released there were many incidents between Andre and the Celestial (see the excerpts in the interaction section). They had a relationship during Roy's imprisonment and Andre wanted to marry Celestial, but

things didn't go smoothly. On Thanksgiving Day, Andre proposes to Celestial. Even though the relationship between Andre and Celestial's father was good, but when Andre said he would marry Celestial, Celestial's father refused and did not agree because Celestial was still Roy's legal wife. Here's the conversation:

Andre pushed back from the table. Tall and narrow, he stood like a lighthouse. "Everyone, I've asked Celestial to marry me."

My father set his dry glass beside his untouched cake. "It's not right," he said casually. "Ladybug, I can't consign this one. You can't marry Andre if you already have a husband. I'm willing to take responsibility for my part in this. I indulged you since you were a little girl, so you think every day is supposed to be the weekend. But this is reality. You can't always get what you want."

"Daddy," I said. "You should know more than anybody that love doesn't always obey the rule book. When you and Mama got married—"

"Celestial." Gloria wore an expression I couldn't decipher, a warning in a foreign tongue.

Daddy broke in. "Entirely different scenario. When I met Gloria, there were extenuating circumstances. I was in a marriage that I rushed into too young. Your mother is my soulmate and helpmeet. Water always finds its own level."

"Mr. Davenport," said Andre. "Celestial is that for me. She is the one I want forever."

"Son," my father said, gripping the dessert spoon like a pitchfork.

“I have one thing to say to you, as a black man: Roy is a hostage of the state. He is a victim of America. The least you could do is unhand his wife when he gets back.”

“Mr. Davenport, with all due respect—”

“What’s all this Mr. Davenport this, Mr. Davenport that. This ain’t complicated. You want this man to come home after five years in the state penitentiary for some bullshit he didn’t even do, and you want him to come back and see his wife with your little ring on her finger and you talking about you love her? I’ll tell you what Roy is going to see: he is going to see a wife who wouldn’t keep her legs closed and a so-called friend who doesn’t know what it is to be a man, let alone a black man.” (page, 109-110)

It appears that the conversation becomes uncomfortable, the relationship becomes uncomfortable and tense.

In the end of the story, while not being married, Celestial and Andre are living like what married couple should be. Living together while expecting a baby. On another hand, Roy tried to once again build new marriage relationship with Davina.

F. Relation in the María Concepción short story

Relationship between Concepción and Juan is not really apparent at the beginning of the story because only after a bit, Juan leaves the village. It is only after Juan comes back from war and chatting with Givens that their relationship is more explained in the following passage:

“Oh, María Concepción! That’s nothing. Look, my chief, to be married in the church is a great misfortune for a man. After that he is not himself any

more. How can that woman complain when I do not drink even at fiestas enough to be really drunk? I do not beat her; never, never. We were always at peace. I say to her, Come here, and she comes straight. I say, Go there, and she goes quickly. Yet sometimes I looked at her and thought, Now I am married to that woman in the church, and I felt a sinking inside, as if something were lying heavy on my stomach....”(page, 11)

Relationship between Concepción and Juan seems very normal relationship between married couple and Juan explanation raises the question about the reason why he is cheating. As written earlier, in which Juan explain about his attraction to Rosa, it seems what Juan seek in marriage is a wife who talks a lot and fight back sometimes.

Even then, according to himself, that relationship is still one-sided in which Juan can hit Rosa and reprimand her if she is talking back too much.

Meanwhile, Juan relationship with Givens is exceptionally good. Not only Givens is willing to bail Juan out, Givens is willing to give him advice regarding Concepción. That advice is as follows:

"Let me tell you, Juan, things haven't been going as well as you think. You be careful. Some day María Concepción will just take your head off with that carving knife of hers. You keep that in mind."(page, 12)

After coming back home, there are two rapid changes in relationship between Juan and Concepción. The first is when Juan come back and try to re-establish himself but got rebuffed by Concepción. This change can have outcome as Concepción giving more importance to herself and not always following Juan.

However, the second change is come quicker than expected. After Juan protecting Concepción after the latter kills Rosa, their relationship has change once more. Shortly after Concepción confession the following exchange occur:

Juan's voice barely disturbed the silence: "Listen to me carefully, and tell me the truth, and when the gendarmes come here for us, thou shalt have nothing to fear. But there will be something for us to settle between us afterward."

"For me everything is settled now," she answered, in a tone so tender, so grave, so heavy with suffering

"Yes, yes, it is all settled. I shall not go away again. We must stay here together." (resume from page, 15-16)

However, in the end of the story, the relationship between Juan and Concepción is not seen or defined anymore. Juan feels weary, bitterness, and hurt after the whole ordeal is over, while Concepción is filled with strange happiness after adopting Rosa's child. What kind relationship they have in future can only be predicted.

G. Comparison

1. Similarities

The similarities in the novel *An American Marriage* and *María Concepción* short story is that they both begin with somewhat stable marital relation that deteriorate because the lack of interaction between the husband and wife. Their marriage then reaches breaking point in which it seems that both pair will break up.

2. Differences

The differences in the novel *An American Marriage* and *María Concepción* short story is that after series of event, the pair of Roy and Celestial is actually have more affable relationship after their divorce and able to become friends. Meanwhile pair of Juan and Concepción while manage to remain husband and wife seems to have more ominous connotations in their future interactions and relations.



CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the study above, in the story of *An American Marriage*, Roy and Celestial actually has good interaction and relationship with each other at the beginning. A lot of problem starts to show up only after Roy imprisonment. The main cause is the reduced interaction between Roy and Celestial. Because of that their relationship is strained. After the whole ordeal, it can be seen that both Roy and Celestial come out with different mindset about marriage. Roy still believes in marriage and choose to marry Davina, while Celestial did not believe in it anymore and choose to just live together with Andre while not being married.

On the other hand, in the story of *María Concepción*, Concepción did not interact with Juan until their relationship deteriorate. Meanwhile, after their interaction, Juan is capable of being kind and considerate towards Concepción. The main conflict of the story comes about because Juan chooses to cheat with Rosa instead of interacting and conveying his want with Concepción. After the whole ordeal, it can be said that now Juan got his wish of exciting woman. The only problem is that Concepción is also now terrifies him. Their relationship probably would start again with different dynamic form before the beginning of the story.

In conclusion, interaction between married couple is very important factor to maintaining relationship. When interaction failed, relationship become strained.

Based on conclusion above, married couple should have reminder to interact more between each other. Even only that is not enough, they should be

open with each other and honest in their interaction to not strain their relationship. People also need to consult with their family and close friend before committing anything serious. Even the two story above shows it. Celestial's father is actually on Roy's side and Givens have been reminding Juan for a long time.



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