

The Representation Of Optimism In Eleanor H. Porter's *Pollyanna*

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Abstract

This paper examines the representation of optimism during the American progressive era in the novel *Pollyanna*. The analysis focuses on discovering the discourse of optimism and the critical position of the author. The theory of representation by Stuart Hall and the discursive approach by Michel Foucault were used. The contextual background and the narrations in the novel are collaborated in the analysis process to find the discourse of optimism and the critical position of the author. The result of this research shows that this novel represents optimism through the glad game and the characters' personality alterations who always look at good sides on everything and make comparison of descending life events. The study also shows that as a writer, Porter positions herself as person who supports optimism as the response in the progressive era in America.

Keywords: glad game, optimism, pollyanna, positive psychology.

INTRODUCTION

The word *Pollyanna* comes from a novel written by Eleanor H. Porter in 1913. It was a significant contribution to American Literature in 20th century, and it was translated into eight languages becoming an international success (Fahas, 2016). The word *Pollyanna* as a person who is always cheerful and expects only good things to happen. The setting of this novel takes place in Vermont, the same state that Porter lives in. The novel tells about a girl who has an optimistic mind and spread it to some people around her. *Pollyanna* is an orphan girl who moves in with her strict aunt in New England after the death of her father. Despite a difficult start, *Pollyanna*'s spaciousness and optimism affect everyone who meets her, and she spreads joy and love wherever she goes. She goes through the day and passes every problem with a glad game. But when tragedy strikes, *Pollyanna* finds her optimistic attitude tested, and she must learn to find happiness again. The main theme for this topic is optimism. It is a tendency to believe that good thing would always happen (Keller, 1903). Keller believes that happiness does not only come from physical pleasure and material possession. She believes that spiritual happiness exists. Happy life depends on how we are in our inner lives - our thoughts, emotions, beliefs and desires.

The previous research of this research is gathering from different sources from an article and two theses that related to my topic on my thesis proposal. The first one is A thesis entitled Loyalty Represented Through Dorothy and Friends in Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. It focuses on analyzing the representation of loyalty of Dorothy and her friends. According to the research, loyalty can be divided into two parts. The first is pure loyalty, it means that people can be loyal without coercion. This type of loyalty represented by friendship Dorothy and her friends. The second loyalty is caused by hegemony. This type of loyalty is represented by OZ and the witch who hegemonic other people or even pressing them with fear so that the subordinate class can be loyal to her. This research also reveals that the efforts of Dorothy and her friends to have their freedom are an image of the American Dream (Anjasari, 2018). Baum tries to incorporate the value of American Dream through the nature of not giving up that is owned by Dorothy and her friends to get a better life.

The second previous research carried out by Sahwari (2020) entitled "The representation of Poverty in *Hansel and Gretel* and *The Tom Thumb*," This research discusses the representation of poverty in *Hansel and Gretel* and *The Tom Thumb*. Poverty is presented through a lack of food supply because catastrophes and lower-class people suffer from starvation all day long. Because their parents cannot fulfill their children's needs, they decide to abandon their children to the forest. Meanwhile, in the second fairy tale *Tom Thumb*, poverty is presented through lower-class people who still have little body even though his parents provide a lot of food. It happens because Thomas Thumb suffers malnutrition. Malnutrition occurs because there is not enough food in their family, so his father decides to sell his son to the stranger. both representations of poverty have links to the author's critical position that the author legitimates the criminal action carried out by parents to stabilize the economic need in their family. The first and the second previous research above help me in formulating and implementing an appropriate theoretical framework.

The last is an article written by Murray Levine (2007) "*Pollyanna* and the Glad Game: A Potential Contribution to Positive Psychology". This article using two material objects which is *Pollyanna* (1913) and *Pollyanna Grows Up* (1915). Levine writes this article using a positive psychology principles because this article is in the domain of psychology. Levine's analysis focuses on seeking testable psychological hypotheses from the novel such as the value of persistence to arouse hope and characteristic consequences after developing psychological therapy. The result of his article found that the glad game in the novel contains several important components of positive psychology principles. This research helps me understand my research in the field of psychology, and helps me identify several psychological cases related to the issue of optimism in my research.

The Theory of Representation by Stuart Hall

According to Hall (1997), representation means using language to say something meaningful, or to represent, the world meaningfully, to other people. It does involve the use of language, sign, and images which stand for representing things. Language is one of the media through which thoughts, ideas, and feelings are represented in a culture. Culture is sometimes defined in terms of shared meanings or shared conceptual maps. This statement means that some people with different cultures would have different concepts to interpret the material world to others. It means that we must be able to translate the concepts we have in mind into language. Hall suggest two systems of representation. The first system is mental representation. It is a system that connects objects, people, and events with mental concepts that exist in our minds. The second system of representation is language, it is a tool to communicate to the others to make them understand about the concepts that exist in our

mind. Therefore, the second system of representation called language becomes important because, without language, the concept that exists in our mind cannot be understood by others.

Hall also explains how the representation of meaning through language works in three approaches. They are the reflective approach, the intentional approach, and the last one is the constructionist approach. The constructionist approach leads to two major variants or models, the semiotic approach by Ferdinand de Saussure and the discursive approach by Michel Foucault. This research using the constructionist approach in the model of discursive analysis by Michel Foucault to analyse this novel and show how the connection of the contextual background of the novel is related to the optimism. Foucault focuses on the production of knowledge in what is called as discourse. He stated that to construct the meaning of a sentence, the theory of representation needs discourse to work as a method of representation to study the meaning together with knowledge and not just the language itself. Foucault believed that we have knowledge of things, only if it has a meaning, and it is a discourse which produces the knowledge, the things itself does not produce the knowledge. There are three major ideas of Foucault's discursive approach which are the concept of discourse, the issue of power and knowledge, and the question of the subject.

METHOD

Qualitative research is used to gather the information of the data through different kinds of objects. There are two kinds of data in this research; they are primary and secondary data. The primary data are collected from the novel *Pollyanna* by Eleanor H. Porter that contains the issues about optimism that are represented in through the dialogues and the narrations of each character in the novel. The secondary data to support my research are gathered from many different sources from the internet like journals, articles, and thesis.

There are three discursive formation in the way of finding the optimism in the novel, they are; the glad game and the characters' personality alterations, looking at the good side, and the comparison of descending live events. Next thing to do is find the discourse some of the events in the novel and the contextual condition was put to attention, like the historical and the social condition, between the time in the novel and in real life to give more information for the data so it can be more accurate to analyse the optimism in the novel.

The final step is the analysis by explaining the critical position of the author. The discursive construction that has been analyzed before, would uncover the critical position of the author. Contextual background about the society and the issue of optimism around 1913 in America was needed in the process of analysis in order to give further information about the critical position of the author. Other information such as the author's writing, education, life, and answer in some interviews was the secondary data to support me in defining the critical position of the author.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The Representation Of Optimism

This chapter consist of two subchapters focuses on elaborating discussions to answer the research questions in the first chapter. The first subchapter focuses on elaborating the issues of optimism in the novel and the contextual background in America as the setting of the place in the novel. The second subchapter focuses on revealing the critical position of the author,

Eleanor H. Porter, who wanted to represent the optimism spirit as the answers of industrialization problems in 1913 America. The three points of optimism become knowledge that is produced through language that would construct the discourse of optimism represented in the novel.

The term “optimism” had been entirely known mostly in the 18th century, this term also was brought by the German philosopher and prodigious scholar Gottfried Leibniz. Optimism means an inclination to put the most favorable construction upon actions and events or to anticipate the best possible outcome. In psychology, the word optimism means a mental attitude characterized by hope and confidence in success and a positive future (Scott, 2020). In the novel, Pollyanna, as the main character, shows various kinds of optimism to help herself and others to be grateful and become happier people.

As I use the discursive model by Foucault, I relate the data in the text to the contextual background of the novel because discourse was only produced in a certain particular time and place. America was a country that had a spirit of optimism since long time ago. The Reconstruction Era was marked by the abolition of slavery and the rebuilding of state laws after the civil war ended. This raises the spirit of optimism among Americans until America is in the Gilded Age, this era is marked by rapid economic growth which slowly builds America into a Land of opportunity. However, the development of cities and industries brought new issues such as worsening economic inequality, dangerous working conditions, poor overcrowded living conditions and etc., so America with the spirit of optimism tries to rectify many problems with the emergence of a new era, namely the Progressive era. Progressive Era creating labor unions, trade groups, and religious associations. It also establishes trade regulations, food safety requirements, child labor laws, and the normalization of the eight-hour workday. America never gives up because they believe that the difficult times are not occurring for a long time. They have the confidence that the situation would definitely get better (Seligman, 2008).

Having a spirit of optimism is not only important for a country but also important to apply in personal life because it would ultimately affect a person's life. Pollyanna as the representation of American children playing an important and valuable role in the novel. She makes huge changes for everyone through the glad game. This game is quite simple, the rule of the game is to find something to be glad in every bad condition. The game is created when Pollyanna was hoping for a doll in a missionary barrel, but she only finds the pair of crutches inside the barrel. Then, Pollyanna's father teaches her to look at the good side of this situation. In this case, she should be glad because she did not need to use the crutches. Later on, when she lives with her aunt, she teaches everyone to do this game together in order to turn a pessimistic view into an optimist. There are many people affected by playing this game and having a better life.

Optimism here is described through a game and is played by many people. In this case, optimism had been linked to a positive mood and good morale, perseverance, and practical problem-solving. Since the story talks about optimism, the character that represents the issue is Pollyanna, the main character of this novel. The optimistic spirit that is shown by Pollyanna through the game, yields to the glad game and characters' personality alterations, looking at the good side and the comparison of descending life event.

The Glad Game and The Characters' Personality Alterations

The phrase looking at the good side is an attitude that prioritizes seeing an event from the good side rather than the bad side. In the novel, the main character Pollyanna represents optimism by looking at the good side in any circumstances and teaching others to do it by

using a glad game. Pollyanna was usually teaching people to seek a good side to deal with the disappointing situation. In the story of *Pollyanna*, Porter clearly shows how Pollyanna was handling bad events with the glad game and making her feel better after playing it.

“... ‘Well, goodness me! I can’t see anythin’ ter be glad about— gettin’ a pair of crutches when you wanted a doll!’ Pollyanna clapped her hands. ‘There is—there is,’ she crowed. ‘But I couldn’t see it, either, Nancy, at first,’ she added, with quick honesty. ‘Father had to tell it to me.’ ‘Well, then, suppose YOU tell ME,’ almost snapped Nancy. ‘Goosey! Why, just be glad because you don’t—NEED ‘EM!’ exulted Pollyanna, triumphantly. ‘You see it’s just as easy—when you know how!’” (Porter, 2020: 41)

Once, Pollyanna got a pair of crutches instead of a doll that she wanted in the donation barrel. Then, her father told her that she should be grateful because she didn't need it. Porter tries to make the glad game as a coping device. The glad game becomes a move, an action is socially shared game for dealing bad things.

The glad game is important in helping the person to take on a different perspective to bring out gladness. The barrel donation incident made Pollyanna grateful because she did not need crutches. It means, she was grateful that she could walk on her two feet so she did not need it. Pollyanna really applies glad game in her everyday life. She is really into it. She does not have to spend a lot of effort to do it and she really enjoys being a grateful person because it makes her life happier. Optimism is a good hope that someone has everything that happens in life, even though they are in trouble (Seligman, 2008). The glad game taught by Pollyanna's father contains a spirit of optimism to keep the players' hope in life. Through glad games, someone can feel another happiness that she had not noticed before. Pollyanna's happiness because she does not need crutches shows that everyone can get their happiness, not only through material possessions. Optimism throws away worries and sadness, so everyone can be easier to find happiness.

Looking at The Good Side

The comparison of descending live event is a process in which a person compares his condition with other people who have worse conditions. In psychology, this situation is known as downward social comparison. Downward social comparisons involve comparisons with a target that is considered inferior on the dimension of interest. A person comparing himself to others who are more inferior, usually aims to provide evidence that an individual is better than others and make himself feel better (Aronson, Wilson & Akert, 2013). Some of the quotations below would explain several incidents regarding the comparison of descending live events in the novel. In the novel, Pollyanna clearly shows the act of this descending comparison through the glad game. She compares her conditions to others in order to keep her positivity and optimism.

‘I never slept a wink last night— not a wink!’ ‘O dear, I wish I didn’t,’ sighed Pollyanna, placing the jelly on the little stand and seating herself comfortably in the nearest chair. ‘You lose such a lot of time just sleeping! Don’t you think so?’ ‘Lose time—sleeping!’ exclaimed the sick woman. ‘Yes, when you might be just living, you know. It seems such a pity we can’t live nights, too.’ (Porter, 2020: 70)

One of the Beldingsville residents is Mrs. Snow. She likes to complain and argue. Her legs couldn't move and he could only lie on the bed. When Pollyanna brought Calf foot's Jelly to her, she complained to Pollyanna that she could not sleep last night. Pollyanna sympathizes

with her, but also says that not being able to sleep is not a completely a bad thing. She often thinks that sleep reduces her time to enjoy the night. Mrs. Snow was surprised to hear Pollyanna's words and she thinks that Pollyanna is interesting.

Pollyanna clearly uses a social comparison on herself and Mrs. Snow. She said, "*it is a pity we cannot live in the night too*" in a person who cannot sleep at night. Pollyanna made Mrs. Snow's condition much better because she could enjoy the night when the other people had to sleep. Considering the descending comparison is a comparison with a target that is inferior on the dimension of interest and provided evidence that an individual is better than others (Halliwell, 2012), Pollyanna proves that Mrs. Snow's condition is better than the other through the glad game perspective.

Pollyanna enjoys interacting with people, she begs for the privilege to deliver calf's foot jelly for Mrs. Snow. She is hoping to establish a relationship with the unhappy woman using foods. Since Pollyanna knows from Aunt Polly that the etiquette of eating should be in the dining room, she is changing Mrs. Snow bedroom becomes a dining room (she prepares the table and arranges food for Mrs. Snow) so it feels appropriate to eat in the bedroom. Pollyanna's optimistic attitude blurs the boundaries between the lower class and the upper class. She does various ways to be able to interact with people. Pollyanna also tried to come with descending comparison to herself when she had an accident as stated in the quotation below.

'And so it's hurt that I am, and not sick,' she sighed at last. 'Well, I'm glad of that.' 'G-glad, Pollyanna?' asked her aunt, who was sitting by the bed. 'Yes. I'd so much rather have broken legs like Mr. Pendleton's than life-long-invalids like Mrs. Snow, you know. Broken legs get well, and lifelong-invalids don't.' (Porter, 2020: 198)

Aunt Polly tries to hide the paralysis that Pollyanna suffers after the accident. After she was hit by a car, she said that she glad about it cause she saw herself as injured like Mr. Pendleton. Not a long life invalid like Mrs. Snow. She interpreted her condition to mean that she was hurt and it was getting recovered. According to Goleman (1966), having a high expectation is one of the values of optimism. Expectation is a hope that hearts want to achieve. Having a high expectations means that someone able to encourage themselves to move and do the best thing to achieve their own goal. Pollyanna has these values, she is using a descending comparison to keep her mind positive. Make her feel better and reassure her that these bad things are not going to happen forever. Then, she shows a high expectation cause she interprets her conditions as 'hurt' and she was recovered soon.

Pollyanna felt the bad impact of the Industrial revolution. The car accident that almost paralyzed Pollyanna was shockingly devastating in the early twentieth century. In the first decade of the 20th century in America, the traffic signs such as stop signs, warning signs, traffic lights, traffic cops, and brake lights, were not existing. Even drinking-and-driving was not considered as a serious crime (Loomis, 2015). Many newspaper articles attest to the danger of automobiles to horses and to people. One editorial in 1904 stated that hatred of automobiles was found in the country districts and suburbs of cities. This is also exacerbated by the many attempts of drivers to escape from the officers of the law by putting on greater speed. An accident case also killed an old man and the automobile driver rushed away and was unknown to this day. This kind of situation is also experienced by Pollyanna in the novel.

The Comparison of Descending Live Events

Seligman (2008) proposed three aspects of optimism: permanence, pervasiveness, and personalization. Characters' personality alterations discussed in this study are related to one

aspect of optimism, namely pervasiveness. Pervasiveness means that an optimist sees failure as affecting only one aspect of life, rather than the entire life. Optimists also allow good events to brighten their whole lives rather than just the area in which they occur. Pollyanna applies this aspect in her life and spreads it to people around her. So other people can see something good as a booster to brighten their entire life. Through her optimism, she makes people have a better life by changing their perspective. The characters' personality alterations caused by playing the game can be marked by the changes in the lives of several characters in the novel.

Porter insightfully depicted personality and behavioral changes in several characters in the novel who playing the glad game. Those who try to play the glad game seemed to enjoy many things they did not enjoy before. In the novel, Porter describes subtle changes to people playing glad games with Pollyanna. They engaged in more activities, seemed to take pleasure even in the small things, or dressed more attractively. Through the characters personality alteration, the pessimistic spirit by several characters before playing the glad game is also shown in this research. The one who was discussed in this paper is Mrs Snow, because Mrs. Snow's case is enough to exemplifies this subchapter.

Mrs. Snow is the next character going through a lot of changes after meeting Pollyanna. She is a disabled woman who relies on church members for assistance, one of whom is Aunt Polly. Mrs. Snow is an insatiable person who constantly complains about everything that happens to her. She whines about her life, but she does nothing to improve it.

‘Dear me! jelly?’ murmured a fretful voice, ‘Of course I’m very much obliged, but I was hoping ‘twould be lamb broth to-day.’ ‘Very well; thank you. Your aunt is very kind, of course, but my appetite isn’t very good this morning, and I was wanting lamb—’ She stopped suddenly, then went on with an abrupt change of subject. ‘I never slept a wink last night— not a wink!’ (Porter, 2020: 69)

When Pollyanna visits Mrs. Snow, what Nancy said it's true, Mrs. Snow thanks Pollyanna for the Jelly, but she says that she hopes to get lamb broth today. Instead of being grateful for the jelly Pollyanna brought, Mrs. Snow wants something she does not have. Mrs. Snow's personality is very much different from the rules of the glad game held by Pollyanna. Pollyanna as an optimist sees that Mrs. Snow's personality is not a problem. She wants to be friend with Mrs. snow to teach about the glad game, and she hopes that Mrs. Snow can also become an optimist like her.

Food is one of the things that connects Mrs. snow and Pollyanna. The food sent from Harrington’s residence is also a charity carried out by Aunt Polly as a church member. Some of the negative consequences of the American Industrial Revolution, such as low wages, poverty, and sickness, causes a lot of people need charity. Some of the charity is accommodated by the church. One of the church members who are active in charity programs is Aunt Polly. She regularly delivers food to Mrs Snow. It is in line with Catholic church practice, which supports the sick, the poor, and the afflicted through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy (penance and charity) (Cumbler, 1980). In the novel, it is clear that Aunt Polly carries out church practice as a devout congregation, specifically giving charity to Mrs Snow. All the things Pollyanna has done to introduce a sense of optimism to Mrs Snow have finally paid off with Milly's gratitude as stated in the quotation below.

You know nothing was ever right before—for mother. She was always wanting ‘em different. And, really, I don’t know as one could blame her much—under the circumstances. But now she lets me keep the shades up, and she takes interest in

things—how she looks, and her nightdress, and all that. And she’s actually begun to knit little things— reins and baby blankets for fairs and hospitals. And she’s so interested, and so GLAD to think she can do it!—and that was all Miss Pollyanna’s doings, you know, ‘cause she told mother she could be glad she’d got her hands and arms, anyway; and that made mother wonder right away why she didn’t DO something with her hands and arms. And so she began to do something—to knit, you know. (Porter, 2020: 228)

The glad game made the biggest changes for Mrs. Snow. Milly as the daughter of Mrs. Snow, left her greetings to Aunt Polly for Pollyanna. She says that nowadays, Mrs. Snow often opened the curtains, she also began to embroider reins and baby blankets. In his book, Seligman stated that one of the characteristics of a pessimist is that it is difficult to get out of one's comfort zone. Mrs. Snow proves that he has turned into an optimist because she is trying to get out of her comfort zone. She accepts her flaws and tries to do things she normally would not do.

The changes of Mrs. Snow are the results of Pollyanna and her glad game. Pollyanna once said that Mrs. Snow should be grateful that she still has hands to work with. Then Mrs. Snow tries to make something with her hand. The rooms are now much more colorful and less gloomy. Pollyanna is successful to encourage Mrs. Snow uses her hands to make knick-knacks. She opens the curtains happily every day and makes her room more colorful. Her life becomes more productive than before she met Pollyanna and the glad game.

The glad game is drastically transformed Mrs. Snow, who is gloomy and easily irritated into someone who can be cheerful and accept her limitations. Optimism is often associated with positive's outcomes in an individual's personal life. The interaction between Pollyanna and Mrs. Snow creates positive outcomes and leads to psychological well-being. Porter gives much attention to the character of Mrs. Snow. The personality changes of Mrs. Snow are one of the things that can make Pollyanna recover from her paralyzed. Pollyanna wants to see the glad Mrs. Snow.

Discussion

The Critical Position of the Author

The critical position is an idea that represents the author's purpose, opinions, expectations or goals regarding a matter that is presented through their literary works. To reveal the critical position of the author, the literary work as the cultural product usually conveys the author's ideology as well as the moral value of optimism to the reader. Thus to get to know the critical position of Eleanor Hodgman Porter as the author of *Pollyanna*, I connect her background of life and then link it to the discourse of optimism that exists in her work. By linking these two points, it can be seen what is the intention of the author bringing the issue of optimism in her novel.

Porter did not begin her writing career as a children's writer, but *Pollyanna* is such a bombastic children's literature written by her in 1913. Children's literature underwent a considerable transformation during the 1800s and became one of the most important development tools involving the fundamental character of the child as a fictional protagonist. As Anne Scott MacLeod notes, this is a major shift in genre:

“In fact, for the first half of the century, children’s fiction was all but static in form and content. When the shift occurred around 1850, it was brought about the social change; the literature was reshaped and pressed into service as a form of social protest in a changing society” (Macleod, 1992)

Porter wants to convey her ideas to the public through her work. *Pollyanna* was created to reveal the important aspect of optimism in life through every character in the novel. Some of the certain aspects are about Porter's life which can be seen in her story which bears a resemblance to her and Pollyanna. Every character described by the author in his or her job is a reflection of people in real life. The life experiences such as the death of both parents, the recovery needed, and the concept about happiness show what traits and Porter values in a character.

Pollyanna is portrayed as an orphan child who live in a poor condition before she meets her aunt after her father's death. Her concept about happiness is a little bit different after her father taught her the glad game. As Seligman stated in his book, there are 4 factors that affect optimism, one of the factor is mother explanation style. It happen because mother as the most important figure and the closest person to the child. In Pollyanna case, the closest person is her father because she never meet her mother before. A child mind would continue to be influenced by the parents. Therefore the way her father take care of Pollyanna has a very important role in looking the world value. Pollyanna lives very well after implementing this game in her daily life. The glad game is finally not only changed Pollyanna, but also made many changes in the lives of Beldingsville's people for the better. In *Pollyanna*, Porter emerges her characteristic as an optimistic woman who has lived through the 20th century and become part of the revolutionary industrial society. Porter uses Pollyanna's point of view to represent her thought and her feeling through the character of the novel. Using a child as the main character, Porter wants to share her opinions about the values of optimism through a child's thoughts, feelings, emotions and knowledge in response to a specific cultural problem and how to handle it in the early 20th century.

Porter positioned herself as a person who supports an idea about optimism. No matter what gender or ages, people should have this spirit in their life. Pollyanna is often linked by negative connotations such as 'blindly optimistic' or 'excessively optimism', but actually the message of the book was never intended to be like that. As she famously once told an interviewer that she has frequently been cast in a negative light. People thought Pollyanna chirped that she was "glad" at everything, but actually she never believed that we should deny discomfort, pain, and evil, she simply believed that it is far better to "greet the unknown with a cheer" (Porter, 1918). So, Porter emphatically refused and said that Pollyanna did not pretend that everything is a sugarcoated goodness, she said that instead of worrying about what has passed, it is better to welcome something that has not happened with a positive mind. As we can see, nowadays, the spirit of optimism spread by Pollyanna is still used by many people.

Porter's works were written based on events that occurred during that time. Porter does not clearly describe the industrial revolution in detail, but the problems that arise, such as pauperism, pessimism, destruction of the family, increasing accidents, etc. is a problem that has emerged as a result of the industrial revolution (Cumbler, 1980). So, the optimism that brought by Pollyanna is a Porter's response to these problems. Using a child as the main character of the novel and specifically writing children's literature, she intended to share the value of optimism with children so that every child can grow up with optimism and becoming grateful rather than complaining about what hasn't happened. Industrial comes with advantages and also disadvantages. Some people who cannot make adjustments, would feel left behind or unequal. Everyone needs to cope with the problem and make changes for themselves. An optimist is able to move and make some changes for the future, not only worry or think badly about the future. The changes of all characters in the novel show that

they have managed to be optimistic. Beldingsville people are the portrayal of American optimism, and Porter as the part of American society who supports the issues of optimism and spreads this spirit to all the readers around the world.

CONCLUSION

Optimism in this novel relates to the mental attitude characterized by hope and confidence in success and positive future. Through this novel, Porter shows the optimism that emerged in the midst of the industrial revolution in America. In the story of Pollyanna, she shares the unique perspective of life through a glad game and leads her and her surroundings to be optimists. The optimism brought by Pollyanna makes significant changes to every character in the novel. Many people are becoming more productive, better at expressing themselves, being more healthy, or just being glad or accepting their situation. This research looks at the issues of optimism in the novel in three ways. The first is looking at the good side, the second is the comparison of descending life event, and the last is the changing personality.

By linking to reality happens in America as the contextual background of the novel and also the place where the author lives, Porter tries to show the optimism culture that grew up there. America in the early 20th century is absolutely optimistic. They are ready to face change and able to adapt to the coming industrial revolution. That is why the optimism and the industrial revolution is quite connected. However, the arrival of the industrial revolution did not only produce good effects, but also came with bad effects such as pauperism, pessimism, the destruction of the family, increased accidents, etc. Porter comes up with this novel and introducing the glad game and the concept of optimism as a way out of the problems that arise. Porter as the part of American society at that time support the issues of optimism and try to spread this spirit to all of her readers. She agrees on this issue because it is very beneficial to everyone who uses it in their daily lives. Although it is difficult at first, they would grow accustomed to when everyone does it frequently. Being an optimist is not in any way harmful. Pollyanna has become popular since her first publication because the values of optimism are still appropriate and beneficial for society from time to time.

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