



**MYTH OF EUROPEAN VAMPIRES IN JOHN AJVIDE LINDQVIST'S
*LET THE RIGHT ONE IN***

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze the Myth of European Vampires in John Ajvide Lindqvist's *Let The Right One In*. There are two kinds of European Vampire myth analyzed in this research. First is the myth of European Vampire characteristics which are reflected by Eli. Second is the myth of human- vampire transformation which is reflected by Virginia. Two problems appear to discuss in this research; the myth of the kinds of vampire characteristics and the myth of human-vampire transformation. The Vampire myth theories from Jay Stevenson Ph. D. and Sebastian Condado de Haza were utilized in this research. There are two concepts used in this research. They are the European Vampire characteristics concept and Human-Vampire transformation concept. A qualitative descriptive method was applied to analyze Eli's character as a vampire and Virginia's character as a human-vampire by finding relevant quotations. The result of this research proves the myth about European vampire characteristics by Eli and the myth of human-vampire transformation issues by Virginia. There are two criteria of European vampire characteristics categories indicating Eli as a vampire; general characteristics and physical characteristics. Meanwhile, three steps of the human-vampire transformation myth can explain the suffering of human-vampire that are perceived by Virginia, which are vampire bite, depression, and suicide.

Keywords: Myth, Vampire, Europe, Vampire Characteristics and Human-Vampire Transformation

I. Introduction

In society, myth is well known as a mystical thing in this world. Myth is found in legend stories that are still believed by some people. Legend stories were usually produced in ancient times and represent the philosophy of life. According to Wheelwright (1955), myth is to be defined as a complex of stories- some no doubt fact, and some fantasy- which, for various reasons, human beings are regarded as demonstrations of the inner meaning of the universe and human life. Based on the statement above, myth can be interpreted as a social mutual concept agreement about something supernatural and spiritual then become the beliefs in the community in the form of traditions of legend stories.

One of the European legend stories told about Vampires. Vampires have been featured in folklore and fiction of various cultures for hundreds of years in Europe, although belief in them has waned in modern times. European vampires are often described to have a sharp fang, half-humans, and consuming human blood. Some people believed that a person may become a vampire if he/she is bitten by the vampire, sorcery, committing suicide, contagion, or the corpse was jumped by a black cat.

People interpreted many various kinds of vampire characteristics according to their interpretation based on the culture or legend story in society.

However, some people also discover a logical reason for the vampire myth that is popular in European society. According to Eldrige (2002):

Creatures with vampiric characteristics have appeared at ancient Greece, where stories were told of creatures that attacked people in their sleep and drained their bodily fluids. In medieval Europe, a plague was happened. People at the time were died one by one. At the time, people who lacking a modern understanding of infectious disease came to believe that those who became vampires preyed first upon their own families. For addition he stated that after the 20th and 21st century, researchers have discover some diseases that has several symptoms with vampire characteristics such as porphyria, which makes one sensitive to sunlight; tuberculosis, which causes wasting; pellagra, a disease that thins the skin; and rabies, which causes biting and sensitive to sunlight and garlic. (p.3)

The quotation above shows that there are some logical reasons for the vampire myth or legend which was believed by people in the past as a mythical creature.

The characters, Eli and Virginia have many kinds of European vampire characteristics that are reflected in John Ajvide Lindqvist's *Let The Right One In*. Eli is described as a teenage girl who has lived for 200 years. Then, she makes a friend with the main character Oscar, a boy who always gets bullied at school. She closes to Oscar, helps Oscar to solve his problem, and cannot live without eating

blood. Eli must eat blood to stay alive; therefore, she is forced to kill humans to fulfill her needs. Besides, another vampire character is reflected by Virginia. She is a middle-aged widow who lives alone in her apartment. Because of her loneliness, Virginia usually goes to the bar looking for happiness. Someday she got drunk and attacked by Eli and then became a vampire. In the novel *Let The Right One In* by John A.L, the myth of European vampires are portrayed clearly. Stevenson's mythological theory about vampire characteristics will be used to analyze the characteristics of European vampires which are reflected by Eli and Virginia. Then, Haza's theory of the European Vampire infection process and depression issues will be used to analyze the suffering of Virginia.

II. Review of Related Literature

To uncover the problems of the research, the writer employs Stevenson's theory and Haza's theory. Stevenson's theory discussed the European vampire characteristic. According to Stevenson (2009), there are three kinds of European vampire characteristics that are categorized into three categories; general characteristics, physical characteristics, and emotional characteristics. While Haza's theory discussed the Myth Human-Vampire transformation theory that concern the myth of the vampire

infection and myth of the psychological effect of vampire transformation.

2.1 A myth about General

Characteristic of European Vampire

In his book entitled *The Complete Idiot's Guides to Vampire*, he stated indirectly the kinds of European vampire characteristics with the statement and some kinds of vampire history, urban legend, and stories. The European vampire characteristics are described in three categories, they are from general characteristics, physical characteristics, and emotional characteristics.

2.1.1 Blood Eater

Vampires are directly linked with the terms blood eaters or bloodsuckers. That vampiric general signs are also mentioned in his book. He described vampires as a bloodsucker and need blood from animals or humans to stay alive.

2.1.2 Immortal

Immortality is one of the vampire ability that is popular among the European myth of the vampire. Many legend stories or literature works about vampires told the vampire never get old. Even vampires are always told to have hundreds to thousands of years old.

2.1.3 Sunlight Intolerant

Steven described the vampire as a sunlight intolerant creature by giving some example from literary works of European

Vampire. Stevenson (2009) stated that vampires like to avoid sunlight because they can be killed and destroyed by sunlight.

2.2 A myth about Physical Characteristics of European Vampire

2.2.1 White Pale Skin

Most European vampires are famous for their white pale skin. Stevenson mentioned in his books a little bit of vampire logical history. The vampire is usually described as an undead human, so the skin always showed white and pale.

2.2.2 Dark Haired

European Vampires are famous for their pretty neat dark hair. Some vampires have red hair, but most of the vampires in the European literary works are described with their dark hair. According to Stevenson (2009), the Lugosi character came to represent what vampires look like: black cape, widow's peak hairline, dark hair, parted down the middle and combed back, thin lips, penetrating stare. In his book, Stevenson gives an example of a Vampire character named Lugosi then tells some of the vampire characteristics, one of which is the dark hair.

2.2.3 Sharp Fangs

Sharp fangs are one of the popular vampire physical identities that are believed in European society. According to Stevenson (2009) Instead of piercing the

necks of their victims with fangs, they used sharp, pointy tongues to draw blood from the area of the chest. This statement shows how people believed the vampire as the bloodsucker creature and the sharp fangs become a tool to do their behavior.

2.3 A myth about Emotional Characteristics of European Vampire

2.3.1 Seductive

Seductive is one kind of vampire general behavior. Steven mentioned in his books by giving some examples of vampire seduction power that is believed by Europeans in the literary works. Stevenson (2009) mentioned the vampire creatures, Incubae and Succubae, as the example of vampire species. Incubae and Succubae, male and female demons respectively, were known throughout Europe and recognized by the Church during the Middle Ages. They appeared at night to have sex with people as they slept.

2.3.2 Carelessness

In his book, Steven mentioned implicitly vampire carelessness by giving some examples of the vampire from European literary works. The vampire as a monster and devilish creature likes doing a crime and killing a human. There is no empathy described in the vampire's emotional characteristics.

2.4 The myth of Human-Vampire Transformation by Haza

In his book entitled *Modern Vampire a guide to survival*, he wrote many complex stories and admitted it as his experience and journey. He claimed himself as one of the sufferers of modern vampire viruses in Europe. When someone (human) transforms into a vampire, there is some myth believed by European people. Haza stated two kinds of vampire infection and three effects of the psychological of vampire transformation myth.

2.4.1 The myth of Vampire Infection

2.4.1.1 Vampire's Bite

The myth of vampire infection was written a lot in the vampire legend story or folklore. Not only in the written literature works, the story case about human become a vampire or transformed also showed in the drama and films. One of the popular causes of vampire infection is bitten by a vampire. In his book, Haza (2009) stated that it was widely believed that one vampire could make another vampire by simply "biting" his victim. The problem was the results were inconsistent. Sometimes it worked, and sometimes it did not. There was no regularity to ritual.

2.4.1.2 Vampire Virus

One of the myths about the cause of European vampire infection is related by

vampire virus. In some vampire movie and film, the vampire virus can infect human when kissing with a vampire, drink the vampire blood and infected by others animal which carry the vampire virus. Haza (2009) stated that vampire viruses can certainly be through being "bitten" by a vampire because there is sufficient virus in the saliva. Folklore tells that if the living drinks the blood of a vampire that he or she will become one. While the virus survives outside the body it can simply transfer by delivering a kiss, handing a glass of water, and bitten by a virus carrier mosquito.

2.4.2 The myth of the Psychological Effect of Vampire Transformation

The transformation between human to vampire affects the psychological of the victims. In his book, Haza mentioned the myth of three steps of psychological effects that will suffer by the human-vampire (vampire's victim).

2.4.2.1 Loneliness

Loneliness is one of the mental issues trigger in this life. When people feel lonely, they can easily get depressed. Haza (2009) said that another cause of depression is loneliness; include the loss of loved ones (among the living). As you survive your mortal family members, you will also out survive all of the living you befriend, fall in love with, marry, and have a relationship with over time.

These hardships can become quite depressing for the human-vampire, and finding a counselor is certainly advisable. It means, human-vampire easily become lonely because of their long-aged or sometimes called immortality in their life.

2.4.2.2 Depression

The victim will get depression because of the transformation. Haza (2009) stated the life changes significantly, Friends among the living usually must be abandoned, for fear that they may “turn you in” to the authorities. It means there is an anxiety of the human-vampire because she/he is afraid if they will hurt their lovely persons or infected others.

2.4.2.3 Suicide

Suicide often stems from a deep feeling of hopelessness. According to www.psychologytoday.com Depression is a key risk factor for suicide; others include psychiatric disorders, substance use, chronic pain, a family history of suicide, and a prior suicide attempt. Depression not only comes in humans but also happened in human-vampire because they still have half of their mind. According to Haza (2009):

The unfortunate side effect of depression is that you may decide to end your existence abruptly. Were you among the living, it would be called suicide. Because the pain and

sorrow many of human- vampire kind feel overtime, it becomes unbearable to remain. (p.187)

According to Haza, the human-vampire also can feel depression, pain, and sorrow. It means, they still have their mind and have psychology as a human.

III. Research Method

The writer applied the qualitative technique to research because the writer analyzes the novel by collecting the reference, understood the theory based on her understanding and perspective to find out the problems that had been formulated. The writer also used the mythological approach to formulating the problems. The reference and theory were collected from several books, journals, and articles. The analyzed data sourced from the quotations from the novel. Therefore, the research question can be answered by analyzing the quotation based on the theoretical concepts of Stevenson’s and Haza’s which were focused on the myth of European vampire characteristics, the myth of European Human-Vampire transformation. The writer conducts the collected myth of European vampire characteristics in the novel, explains and describes the myth of European Human-Vampire transformation about vampire infection process and depression issues in the novel *Let The Right One In* by John A.L.

IV. Findings

4.1 The myth of European Vampire Characteristics

The first sub-chapter discusses the characteristics of a vampire that indicated the main character, Eli as a vampire written in the novel. In the novel, Eli is described as the pure vampire that refers to the European vampire. According to Stevenson (2009), there are three kinds of vampire characteristics classification. They are general characteristics, physical characteristics, and emotional characteristics. However, this analysis deals with two kinds of vampire characteristics in the novel, which are represented by the main character, Eli.

4.1.1 The myth of Vampire General Characteristics

Throughout the world, there are many rumors about vampire characteristics or well known as vampiric signs. Finding the vampiric signs are important things to do because it can indicate or prove if the main character is a vampire or not. According to Stevenson (2009) stated that there are three general European vampire characteristics. They are blood eaters, immortal creatures, and sunlight intolerance. However, three general vampiric signs indicated Eli as a vampire. That will be proved by appearing signs from the quotations of the novel.

4.1.1.1 Blood Eater

A vampire is well-known as a bloodsucker or blood eater creature. Therefore, many mystical things or stuff related to blood absorption are called vampiric stuff. Stevenson (2009) stated:

Myths and legends telling of bloodsucking menaces can be found all over the world and are as old as fear itself. Practically all cultures have produced myths telling of monsters and demons who suck the blood of human victims. Today, such creatures are often called “vampires,” regardless of where or when they come from. (Lindqvist, 2007, p.22)

By using the vampire general characteristics concept, the signs of blood eater will be analyzed from the novel by Eli, a vampire. This blood eater characteristic can be proven and assured in the quotation below:

The Neck.

There was a wide red mark running around the man's neck like a necklace. Håkan leaned over him and saw the wound Eli had opened in order to get at the blood.

Lips against his skin .

—but that didn't explain the neck . . . lace . . . (Lindqvist, 2007, p.86)

The quotation above shows Eli's behavior to suck human blood. This behavior indicates her as a vampire who sucks the blood to fulfill her need. The sentence *Håkan leaned over him and saw the wound Eli had opened in order to get at the blood* shows about Eli's behavior, sucking the

people blood. As a vampire, Eli must get blood to keep alive.

To do the vampiric activities; eating blood, vampire behavior also is described in sadistic ways. Stevenson (2009) stated that play and real vampirism are extensions of sadomasochist activity. Some like cutting, others like being cut, and some like both. Some like the sight of blood, some like the taste, some like the feeling of sucking it from another person or having it sucked from them. In this research, Eli's sadistic behavior can be seen in the following quotation:

The woman moaned when Eli's nose brushed against her throat, started to turn her head, but Eli gripped the woman's arms and chest with one hand, held the other one firmly around her head. Opened her mouth as much as she could, brought it down to the woman's throat until her tongue pressed against the artery and bit down. Locked her jaws. (Lindqvist, 2007, p.164)

From the quotation above, it can be proven Eli's behavior in finding and catching her victim in a sadistic way. In this case, Eli is targeting the middle-aged woman who had a cancer disease in the woman's house. Sadism is also related to forced behavior. The sentence *Eli gripped the woman's arms and chest with one hand, held the other one firmly around her head* shows the forced behavior that Eli does with her victim. Besides, the sentence

Opened her mouth as much as she could, brought it down to the woman's throat until her tongue pressed against the artery and bit down shows Eli's sadistic behavior; sucking her victim blood from the artery at the throat. Therefore, Eli's behavior can be concluded as sadistic behavior of bloodsucker behavior of vampire.

4.1.1.2 Immortal Creature

Immortality is a popular subject in fiction, myth, and legend story. Immortal creatures and species appear a lot in fiction, especially fantasy fiction, and there are many kinds of immortal meaning. Some people believed the immortality as immune to death by injury, disease, and age or cannot be killed and died. Stevenson (2009) stated that vampires are often considered immortal and indestructible. Some have the power to take possession of material bodies, either living or dead, and to appear in various forms. There is a vampiric sign that relates to immortal signs of vampire that can be proven with the quotation below:

"This sounds a bit . . . but . . ." the corners of Eli's mouth twitched, ". . . I haven't had a . . . normal friendship with anyone in two hundred years."

He looked at Oskar with a sorry- I'm-saying-such-silly-things smile. Oskar widened his eyes. "Are you really that old?" "Yes. No. I was born about two hundred and twenty years ago, but half the time I've slept."

“That’s normal, I do that too. Or at least . . . eight hours . . . what does that make . . . one third of the time.” (Lindqvist, 2007, p.356)

From the quotation above, it shows the dialog between Oscar and Eli when they were talking about friendship and Eli’s age. As a human being, Oscar did not believe in Eli, therefore, he replies to Eli’s confession with a joke. The sentences *I haven’t had a . . . normal friendship with anyone in two hundred years* can prove Eli’s memories about her friendship at two hundred years ago. It gives a logical sign of vampire immortality because logically, no human can live for two hundred years and be trapped in the body of a twelve-year-old child.

4.1.1.3 Sunlight Intolerance

Sunlight intolerance is one of the vampire general characteristics that are familiar around the world. A lot of fiction movies, legend stories, and myths show that vampires hate sunlight and light. Even one of the names of allergic diseases in Europe is named the vampire allergic disease because the patient’s body cannot be exposed to sunlight. If the patient’s body is exposed to it, the sensitive skin will peel and burn. Stevenson (2009) stated that the vampire could not return to his resting place and would be killed by the sunlight. The sign of Eli’s sunlight

intolerance will be proven in this quotation below:

She sat down on the bed. A single beam of sunlight came in through the window, shining on her naked foot. A thousand pinpricks. As if her skin were being twisted in two directions at once. What is this? She moved her foot away, pulled on her socks. Moved her foot back into the sunlight. (Lindqvist, 2007, p.237)

From the quotation above, it shows Eli’s inability to sunlight exposure. Her weakness of sunlight exposure can be seen in the phrase *A thousand pinpricks* which are described as a sore sensation of sunlight exposure effects on her foot skin. The sentences *She moved her foot away, pulled on her socks. Moved her foot back into the sunlight* shows her behavior in avoiding the sunlight exposure. It means she knew about her inability and tried to handle it. Therefore, Eli’s sunlight intolerant can be one of the indications proving her as a vampire.

4.1.2 The myth of Vampire Physical Characteristics

Physical signs of vampiric (vampire characteristic) are the characteristics that can be seen by the physical appearance of a vampire. There are four physical signs of European vampire characteristics that are mentioned by Stevenson (2009) they have pale skin, red eyes, and sharp fangs. However, there are two physical vampiric

signs that indicated Eli as a vampire in the novel.

4.1.2.1 White Pale Skin

The word "white" is familiar around the world. "black" and "white" were related to skin colors. In the past, European used "white" and "black" to classify and identify the class in society. However, nowadays the word white skin is a little bit strange and taboo to use in the English language. European prefer to use light skin and dark skin to describe people's skin colors. Therefore, in this analysis, the word "white" does not mean white people in Europe, but it has meaning as a true color or skin, white pale skin color. The white pale skin of Eli's can be proven from the quotation below:

He stopped, pushed the knife back in its holder, and put it back inside his jacket. "Hi." The girl didn't answer. Oskar was so close now that he could see she had dark hair, a small face, big eyes. Eyes wide open, calmly looking at him. Her white hands were resting on the railing. (Lindqvist, 2007, p.44)

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Eli has white pale skin. It can be seen from the word *white hands* give a sign of Eli's skin color. Besides, if she has no pale white skin, her skin will be described as light skin, not white skin. Therefore, her white pale skin indicates Eli as a vampire.

4.1.2.2 Sharp Fangs

Vampire fangs are popular in identifying the vampire character in literary works. The fangs are described with a white sharp form in a case as a tool of vampire activity, sucking blood. Stevenson (2009) stated that instead of piercing the necks of their victims with fangs, they used sharp, pointy tongues to draw blood from the area of the chest. This statement shows how people believed the vampire as the bloodsucker creature, and the sharp fangs become a tool to do their behavior. It can be concluded that one of the vampire's physical characteristics which are inseparable is their sharp fangs. It is the same with Eli's sharp fangs which appear in the novel. It can be proven from the quotation below:

For one second she really believed it was the sorrow-demon who had taken a physical form and thrown itself on top of her. Then she felt the searing pain in her throat as sharp teeth penetrated the skin. She managed to get back on her feet, spinning around and trying to get rid of the thing that was on top of her. (Lindqvist, 2007, p.227)

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Eli has sharp fangs. The quotation above shows the part of the story about Eli's behavior in attacking a blonde lady named Virginia. The phrase *sharp teeth penetrated the skin* shows how sharp Eli's fangs are until she can penetrate the skin easily. As a normal human being, it is

rather difficult to penetrate the skin in one bite. Therefore, the sharp fangs owned by Eli can indicate her as a vampire.

4.1.2.3 Dark Haired

People believe most European vampires have dark hair. According to Stevenson (2009), the Lugosi character came to represent what vampires look like: black cape, widow's peak hairline, dark hair parted down the middle and combed back, thin lips, penetrating stare. He told about an example of European vampire species called Lugosi who has dark hair. Stevenson's statement is enough to represent and reinforce the physical characteristic of European vampire myth that is having dark hair. In the novel, Eli appears as a girl who had black dark hair. It can be seen in the quotation below:

He stopped, pushed the knife back in its holder, and put it back inside his jacket. "Hi." The girl didn't answer. Oskar was so close now that he could see she had dark hair, a small face, big eyes. Eyes wide open, calmly looking at him. Her white hands were resting on the railing. (Lindqvist, 2007, p.44)

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Eli has dark hair. The phrase *dark hair* shows how Eli's hair looks like. As a human, there is something strange with dark hair. However, in Eli's case, the black hair becomes one of the vampire's physical characteristics that is

described and shown in Eli's appearance. Therefore, the dark hair owned by Eli can indicate her as a vampire.

4.2 The myth of Human-Vampire Transformation

The myths about vampires not only stop around the vampire. Some myth in the society said the human who had been infected by a vampire will become the human-vampire. Human-vampire in European society is described as the myth when a human becomes a vampire, they cannot control all of their minds. In this novel, Virginia is described as a human-vampire who gets the transformation because of Eli. Virginia is a middle-aged widow who lives alone in her apartment. Because of her transformation, she got depression and was gone with suicide.

4.2.1 Vampire's Bite

One of the causes of the vampire infection is bitten by a Vampire. Haza (2009) stated that it was widely believed that one vampire could *make* another vampire by simply "biting" his victim. In this novel, Virginia transformed into a human-vampire because she was bitten by a vampire; Eli. Virginia was attacked by Eli when she was drunk. At first, Virginia did not realize if she was attacked and thought it was a hallucination of the drunken effects although Lacke, her boyfriend ever tells her about the vampire who attacked her. According to the novel, the cause of

Virginia's human-vampire transformation is bitten by a vampire, Eli. It can be seen in the quotation below:

That night at the hospital Lacke had said something really strange: that the child who attacked her had not been a human being. That it had had fangs and claws. Virginia had dismissed this as a drunken hallucination. She didn't remember much from the attack. But she could accept this: the thing that had jumped on top of her had been much too light to be an adult, almost too light to be a child, even. A very small child in that case. (Lindqvist, 2007, p.241)

From the quotation above, it can be seen that Virginia's human-vampire transformation happened because of Eli's attack. There are no specific ways described in the novel. However, logically it can be seen in the sentences *that the child who attacked her had not been a human being. That it had had fangs and claws* that sentence mentioned Eli's fangs and claws. Therefore it gives an illustration of the possibility of Virginia's infection is because of Eli's bite.

4.2.2 Depression

One of the common causes of mental illness is depression. According to the American Psychiatric Association in psychiatry.org, depression is a common and serious medical illness that negatively affects how someone feels, the way someone thinks, and how someone acts. In

Virginia's human-vampire transformation, she went through a lot of hardships and misery when she became a vampire. Haza (2009) stated the Human-Vampire gets some depression because life changes significantly. Friends among the living usually must be abandoned, for fear that they may "turn you in" to the authorities. There are two kinds of Virginia's depression that she got when she becomes a vampire. They are getting anxious and hurting themselves. Since Virginia becomes the vampire, she got some anxiety, pain, and hurt feeling if she does not get the blood to eat. The first depression is her anxiety can be seen in this quotation below:

She had slept for a few hours, woken up when it got dark. Her hunger had then changed in nature, been transformed into anxiety. A school of hysterically wriggling little fish now filled her circulatory system. She could neither lie down, nor sit, nor stand. (Lindqvist, 2007, p.251)

From the quotation above, it can be seen Virginia's anxiety when she became a vampire. She began to feel a weird and strange thing about her body. The sentence *A school of hysterically wriggling little fish now filled her circulatory system* refers to a weird and strange feeling in her throat which leads her to an uncomfortable condition that gives her anxiety. Besides, she also gets other terrific anxieties that can be seen in the sentence *She could neither lie down, nor sit, nor*

stand which means that she cannot do anything to make herself comfortable and relax which can lead her to depression.

Depression not only disrupts someone's thinking but also makes someone under control with themselves. One of the characteristics of a depressed person is the desire to hurt himself or herself. The second depression; the desire to hurt herself that is suffered by Virginia can be seen from this paragraph:

Same thing now, except worse. The anxiety did not let up for a moment. It forced her around the apartment until she couldn't stand it any longer, until she sat down on a chair and banged her head into the kitchen table. In desperation she took two sleeping pills and washed them down with a couple of mouthfuls of wine that tasted like dishwater. (Lindqvist, 2007, p.252)

From the quotation above, it shows how her anxiety surrounds her. The phrase *banged her head into the kitchen table* shows that she began to hurt herself because of her depression. Because of that, she must take sleeping pills to calm down herself. Another depression that she got also can be seen in the sentence *In desperation she took two sleeping pills and washed them down with a couple of mouthfuls of wine that tasted like dishwater*. Logically, normal people took medicine by drinking the water not the wine. Therefore, Virginia's depression as a human-vampire in the novel reflects the

the myth of human vampire transformation in Europe.

4.2.3 Suicide

Suicide is closely related to depression because depression is a common cause of it. According to the American Psychological Association (2019), suicide is the act of killing yourself, most often as a result of depression or other mental illness. Virginia's suffering case, not only made her depressed but also led to her decision to commit suicide. One of the complaints he has made is can be seen in this quotation *When the first pale dawn light trickled in through the tiny gaps in the blinds and struck Virginia's palm like a burning hot light bulb, she only wanted one thing: to die.* (p.305) The quotation before shows how Virginia suffered when she got a sunburn. In the European vampire myth, a vampire cannot stand to get sunlight exposure. Because of that, Virginia gets the pain and hurt until make her want to die. The clause *struck Virginia's palm like a burning hot light bulb* illustrated the terrific sore that she gets. Besides, the clauses *she only wanted one thing: to die* shows Virginia's mind which leads her to the early symptoms of suicide.

When people commit suicide, they have many reasons and problems in their life. According to Haza (2009),

The unfortunate side effect of depression is that you may

decide to end your existence abruptly. Were you among the living, it would be called suicide. Because the pain and sorrow many of human-vampire kind feel overtime, it become unbearable to remain. (p. 187)

From the quotation above, we can conclude that human vampires have some reasons to end their lives. The reason can be seen as the pain and sorrow that they are suffering. In Virginia's case, four reasons lead her to commits suicide. They can be seen in the following quotation:

She looked up at the light, said: "I can't stand light. I can't eat. I have horrible thoughts. I'm going to hurt people. You. I don't want to live." (Lindqvist, 2007, p. 389)

From the quotation before, it can be seen Virginia complaints about her conditions. First, she feels suffering from her inability to sunlight exposure. Second, she cannot eat normally as a human because the only thing that she needs is just blood. Third, she feels bad and disgusted about herself. Then the last, she does not want to hurt other people. Therefore, because of all the reasons and considerations, she commits to ending her life.

Also, there are a lot of ways chosen by people when they are committing suicide. In Virginia's case, after she passed all of her decision, she commits suicide by letting her body

burn under the sunlight. It can be seen from this quotation below:

Virginia closed her eyes, sighed, gave up. Then she said: "Would you be so kind as to open the blinds?" The nurse nodded and walked over to the window. Virginia took the opportunity to kick off the blanket, exposing her body. Held her breath. Kept her eyes tightly shut. It was over. Now she wanted to turn off. The same function she had been resisting all morning she now consciously tried to let forth. But she couldn't. Instead she experienced that thing that you heard about: seeing your life pass before you like a strip of film in fast forward... A clattering noise as the blinds were raised, and she was sucked down into a sea of fire. (Lindqvist, 2007, p.417)

From the quotation above, Virginia commits to ending her life because of the depression that she had. The sentence "*Would you be so kind as to open the blinds?*" shows her first step in committing suicide. Virginia asks the nurse to open the blinds or curtain even though she must not be under the sunlight. The sentences *Kept her eyes tightly shut. It was over. Now she wanted to turn off* express her solid decision about death. The last sentence, *A clattering noise as the blinds were raised, and she was sucked down into a sea of fire* shows that she ends her life by letting her body burn under the sunlight at the hospital. Therefore, the myth of human vampire transformation

about psychological issues; depression and suicide are truly reflected by Virginia in the novel.

V. Conclusions

The writer has already analyzed the novel *Let The Right One In*. From that novel, the writer found two kinds of a vampire described in this novel. They are a pure vampire and human- vampire. The writer also concluded two major issues in the novel; it talked about myths of European Vampire reflected by Eli and myths of European Human- Vampire transformation reflected by Virginia.

In the novel, the myths of European vampires especially pure vampires are reflected by Eli. Eli fulfilled the general and physical characteristics of a European vampire. However the character, Eli is shown as the main character that is not evil. One justification for this is that Eli does not meet the criteria for emotional vampire characteristics. They are seductive and carelessness.

Eli's character is depicted as a child who has no seductive side in her hunting to find food. Besides, Eli also has a sense of empathy. It can be proven by several events that occur in the novel. Eli wants to be friends with Oscar and help Oscar from friends who have Oscar, Eli also kills people so they are not infected with

vampire virus and puts the victim's body back on the bed well.

In the novel, Virginia is described as a middle-aged widow who turned into a vampire because of an attack from Eli. After his transformation into a vampire, Virginia is depressed and decides to commit suicide. It proves that the myth about human-vampire transformation in Europe is clearly illustrated in the novel entitled *Let the Right One In* by John Ajvide Lindqvist.

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