

ROMANTIC FANTASY AS REFLECTED IN STEPHANIE MEYER'S NEW MOON

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ABSTRACT : This study attempts to examine Meyer's New Moon romantic fantasy. John G. Cawelti's theory is the one that gets applied. In this study, the researcher used objective research as a research design. The source of data collection consists of primary data, namely novel and the New Moon novel itself and secondary data which includes articles and books from the internet that support this research. The researcher conducted this research using a close reading approach, which is to analyze in detail and in depth to find the meaning. The data used in this research is the novel New Moon. Based on the results of the research, from this study is that Meyer's New Moon reflected the romantic fantasy which the strong competent female character namely Bella who have love affair with a vampire as Edward in a supranatural world. This couple faced to challenges because they from a different world.

Keywords: *Novel, romance formula, romance plot, romantic fantasy*

INTRODUCTION

Romantic fantasy, sometimes known as Romantasy, is a subgenre of fantasy fiction that blends romance and fantasy, defining a fantasy tale that makes use of various chivalric romance tropes and features. romantic fantasy features stories with strong, competent female characters magic, the natural world, and power relationships (Snead,2005). Fantasy is a type of fiction where the main theme, setting, or platform is magic and other supernatural occurrences. The setting of the genre is a magical world where magic is widespread. Fantasy frequently takes place in settings or planets that are

wholly made up or very different from the real world. These fictional realms may be imaginative, mystical, magical, or futuristic. Fantasy allows us to experience the enchantment in our surroundings and, more significantly, within ourselves. Fantasy as a genre is about leaving our world and entering the world of other experiences. We learn more about ourselves by drawing on those experiences (Barron,2004).

From definition above, Novel is one of the literary works in which there is the result of a person's work of imagination. Khusna (2018: 2) said that "A novel is a figure up of basics such as plot, characters, theme, setting, narration etc. The entire features join together to build the world of the novel" The novel has intrinsic, extrinsic elements as well as structures within it that make it easier for the reader to place himself as well as understand and follow the storyline. *New Moon* is a romantic fantasy book written by Stephanie Meyer and is the second book in a series of books titled *Twilight*. Most of the reviews for this novel are positive. indicates that the novel has an "almost fairytale quality". Meyer's writing has been widely praised for the development of his character, especially Bella, and his powerful portrayal of love and pain, which they say is "moving". Meyer often cried while writing those passages because he found it difficult to write Bella's pain over Edward's departure. She claimed that because he had never gone through a heartbreak like Bella's, she was unable to draw solace from his personal experience; rather, she bases it on how he believes she will feel in the event that loses a kid. The reason, she claimed, was his personality, which was "much more open to pain and joy." "The way she chose to deal with it" could not be determined, she said. (Shafitri,2013).

Stephanie Meyer was inspired to write *New Moon* as a continuation of Bella Swan's story after the success of her first novel, *Twilight*. Initially, she had written a sequel titled *Forever Dawn*, which skipped over Bella's high school experience. The writing process for *New Moon* was deeply influenced by Meyer's characters. She describes herself as a

"character writer," stating that the motivations and actions of her characters often guide the plot. While plotting *New Moon*, she found that Edward Cullen's character necessitated a significant change: he would have to leave Bella, which she initially resisted but ultimately accepted as essential to the story.

RESEARCH METHOD

Qualitative research was used in this study to make a clear explanation about *New Moon* reflect in this novel. According to (Bogdan and Biklen, 1997) qualitative research is descriptive research with Cawelti's theory (Cawelti, 1977) is a pattern or structure for narrative and drama that appears in numerous separate works. Formulas, according to Cawelti, are the kinds of plots that stand in for the different kinds of stories. The romance is the female counterpart of the adventure story. There may be a fundamental connection between the sexes and these story kinds, as evidenced by the fact that most romances feature female central characters and most adventure formulas use male protagonists.

Literature research were used by the author to gather the data. Literature study, according to (Zed 2004), is a research process that involves library data gathering techniques including reading and taking notes as well as processing research resources. All of the secondary data sources, journal articles, publications, and other materials are associated with the *New Moon* novel. The presence of heroes and heroines, the portrayal of the hero as flawless, the portrayal of heroines as commonplace, and the conclusion of the story are the main sources of the moral itself, as stated by Cawelti.

The researcher objective technique allowed them to understand the research's topics, character motives, and narrative structure. A major theme in the story is the examination of romantic love and the suffering that comes with losing someone you love. One recurrent theme is Bella's quest for identity following Edward's departure. The novel's narrative structure centers on Bella Swan's emotional development after Edward

Cullen leaves. Throughout *New Moon*, Bella's character development undergoes a tremendous transformation. She is initially shown as being reliant on Edward, but she eventually gains the ability to stand up for herself. As Bella works through her bereavement and finds comfort in her connections and new experiences, this framework highlights themes of love, loss, and identity.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The goal of this study is to determine how Meyer's *New Moon* reflects romantic fantasy. In *New Moon*, the Romance Formula was identified and reported by the researcher. John G. Cawelti's Romance theory, which the author explains in chapter II, is used to discuss the data. The main focus of romance stories is the love and emotional bond between two people. These connections are the main source of motivation for the story, which culminates in a happy and satisfying conclusion to the romantic hero and heroine's idealized nature. The researcher's analysis of the data aims to provide an answer to the romantic fantasy between Bella and Edward in Meyer's *New Moon*. The researcher discovered that:

According to (Cawelti,1977) formulas are presented, namely cementing of the relationship, Their bond is rekindled, demonstrating the resilience of their love in the face of separation. Throughout the narrative, both characters exhibit a readiness to make sacrifices for one another. In an attempt to feel closer to Edward, Bella puts herself in danger by seeking out perilous situations, while Edward departs to shield her from the perils of his world. This sacrifice-related motif highlights how deeply committed they are. Bella and Edward's romantic fantasy in *New Moon* is a gothic romance with elements of supernatural, love, and loss. *New Moon*'s examination of love characterized by love and loss skillfully combines aspects of gothic romance. Bella and Edward's emotional bond reflects both the sorrow and beauty that are part of their love.

Then the challenging of love relationship in *New Moon*, Bella and Edward's relationship confronts difficulties that exacerbate their emotional bonds. Following Edward's departure to shield her from the perils of his realm, Bella suffers from severe despair and heartbreak. This split emphasizes themes of identity, longing, and the conflict between personal safety and love. Then comes triumphant and lasting love. In Meyer's *New Moon*, Bella and Edward's love ultimately triumphs and endures despite their difficulties. Though it further strengthens their relationship, Edward's choice to leave Bella is motivated by a misplaced desire to protect her. The analysis of this study focuses on the romantic fantasy from Cawelti's theory in Meyer's *New Moon*:

1) Cementing the love relationship

Romances often contain elements of adventure, but the dangers function as a means of challenging and then cementing the love relationship. (Cawelti,1977:41) explains how romantic connections are developed in stories like Bella and Edward's in *New Moon*. They have a dramatic reunion after Bella's mental suffering while Edward is away. Their intense affections for one another are highlighted by this moment, which is filled with relief and longing. They rekindle their connection, demonstrating how strong their love is even in the face of distance. The willingness of both characters to make sacrifices for one another is evident throughout the narrative. While Bella jeopardizes her safety by seeking out risky situations in an attempt to feel closer to Edward, Edward departs to shield her from the perils of him. This concept of sacrifice highlights how deeply committed they are.

Bella and Edward become closer as a result of the Volturi's exterior threats and the perils of the supernatural realm. By overcoming these obstacles, their relationship and dedication to one another are strengthened. From Bella's near-death experiences to their tearful reunions, the tremendous experiences they share forge an enduring

friendship. Their relationship is built on these shared experiences, which demonstrate how love can flourish in the face of hardship.

2) Gothic Romance

The gothic romance uses mystery as an occasion for bringing two potential lovers together, for placing temporary obstacles in the path of their relationship, and ultimately for making its solution a means of clearing up the separation between the lovers. (Cawelti,1977:41) Gothic romance between Bella and Edward intensifies through themes of loss, longing, and the supernatural. The atmosphere is charged with gothic elements misty forests, haunting memories, and the looming presence of danger. Bella's grief manifests in reckless behavior, reflecting a desire to feel alive in the midst of her pain. Gothic romance explores the uncanny, where the becomes strange and unsettling. The initial attraction in *New Moon* is not just about physical presence but also about emotional reconnection amidst turmoil. It illustrates the intense bond between Bella and Edward and sets the stage for their future struggles and commitments, including discussions about Bella's desire to become a vampire and their plans for a future together.

"Bella? Even though I was almost certain that I was dreaming, and even though I was always excited to see him awake or not, I freaked out when Edward approached us in the bright sunlight. "Have a happy birthday." As though I were the only one around, he was walking elegantly in my direction while wearing the most exquisite smile on his angel's face." (Meyer,2006:7)

The story begins with Bella going through deep grief after Edward leaves her. On her eighteenth birthday, during a party hosted by the Cullens, an accident involving a paper cut leads to a dangerous situation where Edward's brother, Jasper, nearly attacks her. Bella's attraction to Edward is sparked by his mysterious demeanor and striking appearance, in line with Cawelti's idea of physical attraction as the basis for romantic relationships. the initial attraction between Bella and Edward in *New Moon* is portrayed

as a potent force that shapes their actions, emotions, and the overarching narrative of the series, reinforcing their deep bond despite the obstacles they encounter. Bella and Edward's relationship in *New Moon*, as Edward's vampire and danger to their love.

"Bella tried to sound angry, but it came across as pleading instead. "You are the best part of my life," she remarked. (Meyer,2006:67)

The relationship between Bella and Edward is characterized by intense emotional dependency, which Cawelti identifies as a hallmark of gothic romance. After Edward leaves Bella, she spirals into deep depression, showcasing her obsessive love. Cawelti emphasizes that conflict is crucial for character development in gothic romances.

3) *The Challenging of Love Relationship*

Romances often the dangers function as a means of challenging. (Cawelti,1977:42)

Bella and Edward's relationship begins with a strong interest attraction characterized by an intense emotional connection. This attraction is complicated by Edward's vampire nature, which introduces inherent dangers to their love. Cawelti emphasizes that such initial chemistry is crucial for engaging readers and setting the stage for the narrative. As a human, Bella is vulnerable to Edward's vampire instincts, making their love both exhilarating and dangerous. This tension adds to the intensity of their feelings for each other.

Edward:"I'm no good for you, Bella." He spoke the words slowly and precisely, his cold eyes on my face, watching as I absorbed what he was really saying. "I don't want you to come with me." He said." (Meyer, 2006: 70)

After Edward leaves, Bella struggles to find her identity without him, illustrating how their relationship has shaped her sense of self. This dependency leads her to seek dangerous experiences to feel closer to Edward, showcasing an unhealthy attachment that complicates her emotional state. Cawelti's theory suggests that such dependencies can lead to imbalances in romantic relationships, where one partner's well-being is too

reliant on the other. Edward's decision to leave Bella to protect her from the dangers of his vampire world creates a profound sense of loss and longing. This separation highlights Bella's emotional struggles and deepens her sense of identity crisis. The inherent differences between their worlds pose a constant challenge. Edward's vampire nature means he is always aware of the risks his existence poses to Bella. This conflict drives much of the tension in their relationship. The challenging of the conflict in Meyer's *New Moon* occurs when Edward Cullen believes that Bella Swan has died after a miscommunication leads him to think she committed suicide.

"Alice said: "It was Edward." The words were just a choked whisper. "He thinks you're dead." (Meyer, 2006: 408)

This pivotal moment triggers a series of events that drive the story to its dramatic peak. Devastated by the news of Bella's supposed death, Edward makes a desperate attempt to confront the Volturi the vampire royalty in Italy. His goal is to provoke them into killing him, as he cannot bear to live without Bella. This decision highlights the depth of his love and the extent of his grief, showcasing the emotional turmoil he experiences. Unaware of Edward's actions, Bella discovers his plan and rushes to Italy with Alice to save him. Her determination to prevent Edward from taking his own life reveals her own growth and commitment to their relationship.

"No!" Bella screamed. "Edward, look at me! He wasn't listening. He raised his foot to take the step that would put him directly in the path of the sun. Bella slammed into him so hard. He looked down at me with quiet surprise" (Meyer, 2006: 445)

In a moment filled with tension and urgency, Bella arrives just in time to prevent Edward from stepping into the sunlight. She throws herself into his arms, demonstrating her unwavering love and commitment despite the pain he caused her by leaving. This act not only saves Edward but also reaffirms their bond, highlighting the depth of their feelings for each other even amidst chaos and misunderstanding. After Bella successfully

intervenes, Edward reveals his profound regret for leaving her, admitting that he never stopped loving her. This emotional exchange serves as a release for both characters, allowing them to confront their feelings head-on. The catharsis is further emphasized by Edward's apology and his promise to be together forever, which alleviates the tension built throughout the narrative.

4) *Love Triumphant and Permanent*

The usual outcome is a permanently happy marriage, in such a way as to suggest that the love relation has been of lasting and permanent impact (Cawelti,1977:42) According to Cawelti that most romance stories culminate in a resolution that reaffirms love despite adversity. This resolution often involves overcoming obstacles and reconciling differences, leading to a happy ending that provides closure for readers. wherein the hero and heroine's emotional journey reaches its culmination. During this stage, the characters find themselves drawn closer together, often expressing their love and unwavering commitment to one another.

"But we have lots of reasons to be happy. for one we're alive and together," Edward said. (Meyer,2006: 481)

Cawelti suggests that genres like romance often reflect cultural ideals and values. Bella and Edward's relationship embodies ideals of eternal love and the triumph of love over adversity. Despite the supernatural obstacles and dangers they face, their love persists and deepens, reflecting a cultural fascination with enduring romantic bonds. In *New Moon* by Stephanie Meyer's common in romance genres, where initial attraction, conflicts, and eventual resolutions shape the characters' journey. Bella and Edward's relationship is characterized by intense initial attraction, followed by numerous conflicts and challenges such as Edward's vampire nature and the dangers it poses. However, their love ultimately triumphs over these obstacles, culminating in their marriage and Bella's transformation into a vampire.

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