Social Acceptance and Rejection among Teenagers as seen in Jerry Spinelli's Novel entitled *Stargirl*

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Abstract : This study explored the social acceptance and rejection experienced by the main character in the Stargirl novel. This study aimed to reveal the representation of social acceptance categories that occured towards the main character and also to reveal the form of social rejection experienced by the main character in the novel "Stargirl". A qualitative descriptive research method was used, incorporating supporting quotes from the novel and other sources. Through a psychological approach, the researcher examined the categories of social acceptance from Hurlock and form of social rejection by Baumeister and Leary. The researcher found the results of the study that in the Stargirl novel, there was evidence of social acceptance in the form of star, accepted, and fringer experienced by the main character. In addition, the researcher found that not only social acceptance, social rejection of the main character Stargirl was found in the form of active, passive, other or verbal, and social or peer rejection.

Keywords: *Social Acceptance, Social Rejection, Stargirl novel*

INTRODUCTION

Human life cannot be separated from interaction. This interaction builds relationships, which is why humans are called social beings. Humans are social beings who tend to depend on others. Every human being will need other humans to live their lives and build a space for interaction between individuals or groups (Henschel et al., 2020). Teenagers are social beings who interact with one another, including peers (Zurbriggen et al., 2019). During socializing, teenagers experience a phase of acceptance or lower perceived social acceptance (rejection) which has an impact on teenagers (Heizomi et al., 2021). Nowadays, teenagers face many

challenges related to social acceptance and rejection. Common factors leading to social rejection include differences in style, behavior, and interest. Understanding these issues is important because they play a big role in how teenagers grow and develop.

Literature always reflected about the social and cultural phenomena that happened in society (Sabudu, 2020). A novel is a literary form that refers to real human life (Turner, 2020). Novel by Jerry Spinelli is a work of teenagers literature that is very suitable for discussing social acceptance and rejection in teenagers because it raises the theme of identity, friendship, and the influence of self on society and vice versa.

This article aims to explore how the categories of social acceptance and the forms of rejection occur in teenagers in the novel "Stargirl". Research on social acceptance and rejection in Jerry Spinelli's novel "Stargirl" is important to study because the novel "Stargirl" illustrates the complex social dynamics among teenagers, especially regarding the issue of social acceptance and rejection. This study is different from other studies, especially those related to the novel "Stargirl" because it provides a deeper understanding of the social acceptance and rejection of adolescents in literary works of novels, which are very important to discuss. In order to become a guideline for adolescents in socializing in their surroundings, especially in the school environment.

This study focuses on the analysis of social acceptance and rejection in Jerry Spinelli's novel, "Stargirl" concerning the acceptance and rejection of teenagers at Mica High School, especially those experienced by the main character, Stargirl or Susan Caraway. This study focuses on how the categories and stages of social acceptance are reflected in the "Stargirl" novel and the forms of social rejection reflected in Jerry Spinelli's novel entitled "Stargirl". (Hurlock, 1978), argues that social acceptance is divided into:

a. Stars

This is the highest category. Only a few people are included in this category because this star category is only owned by certain people, such as those who have many achievements, are popular, and are respected by society.

b. Accepted

This category is the second highest after the star. It contains people liked and well-accepted by the group members because their characteristics align with their goals.

c. Fringer

The group may no longer accept this position because this individual's behavior differs from the group wants.

Meanwhile, according to (Baumeister & Leary, 2017) the forms of social rejection, especially peer rejection, are as follows:

1. Active rejection: Active rejection is a social rejection that occurs directly through actions such as insulting, bullying, and teasing.

2. Passive rejection: a form of rejection that is not carried out by actions such as bullying but by distancing oneself, such as doing silence (silent treatment) and ignoring people when talking or doing something.

3. Other rejections are also verbal, such as spreading the news by gossiping to influence the thinking of a group

4. Social rejection (peer rejection), is also in the form of refusal to provide access or gaps to the person related to many things such as freedom of speech, using group facilities, and other things related to whatever needs or desires the person wants to do within the group.

RESEARCH METHOD

1. Research design

Qualitative in literature is carried out by identifying the phenomena of what is being researched (Chenail et al., 2010). The descriptive qualitative method is

derived from observed facts and articulated in written form (Denzin & Lincoln, 2011). Based on this perspective, it can be concluded that this study used a descriptive qualitative approach, which explained in detail the data collected and presented it in written form. All information found was described in detail and arranged comprehensively.

2. Data collection

The research collected data in two ways:

1. Primary Data: Obtained from the novel "Stargirl"

2. Secondary Data: Comprised supporting information from various sources such as the internet, journals, articles, books, and other relevant sources (Sabudu, 2021).

3. Data analysis

To analyze the data, the researcher used a psychological approach from (Paris, 1997), which argues that psychoanalysis explores the inner conflict individuals experience within themselves and in their relationship with others, while literature depicts this struggles and is both created and consumed by such individual. This approach was related to Hurlock's theory about the categories of social acceptance and Baumeister & Leary's theory about the form of social rejection.

Based on the explanation above, the psychological approach is the most appropriate for analyzing data because the psychological approach does not only discuss conflicts within but also conflicts with society. So, it is related to the research topic of social acceptance and rejection among teenagers in Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. Categories of social acceptance

Susan Caraway in the Stargirl novel experiences various forms of social acceptance. Susan Caraway or Stargirl receives forms of acceptance at varying levels from her friends at school. There was a time when she received the highest

category of social acceptance because of her popularity and achievements. Stargirl also received standard social acceptance in her school environment because of her ability to socialize and she also received temporary social acceptance.

In analyzing the level of social acceptance received by Stargirl, the researcher categorized social acceptance according to the categories proposed by (Hurlock, 1978) about the categories of social acceptance divided into categories such as star, accepted, and fringer.

1.1 star

This category is the highest in social acceptance. This category is a social rejection that occurs in the social environment because it is caused by a high level of popularity. In addition to social acceptance that occurs because of the level of popularity, this category is also social acceptance because of a person's achievements so that they are respected by the social environment. The following are quotes found by researchers related to the social acceptance of the star category experienced by Susan Caraway or Stargirl:

> ➢ " Cheerleading practice drew a crowd. At least a hundred of us stood by the parking lot that day, watching her learn the cheers, watching her jump around in her long pioneer dress." (p. 19, l.3-5).

This quote explains that Stargirl is someone who attracts the attention of her friends. This quote also explains how Stargirl is in her popular period in the school environment. Stargirl is watched by many people not when she is competing or performing as a cheerleader but only during the practice process. This category is included in the star category because it indicates the popularity of Stargirl in her school environment.

> ➢ " By December first, Stargirl Caraway had become the most popular person in school." (p. 25, l.22-23)

This quote proves that Stargirl is a popular person. Time after time in socializing, Stargirl can be the most popular person in school. Stargirl can socialize

with her friends is well-accepted and even gets praise. The social acceptance received by Stargirl at that time was so high that she was categorized as a star.

> ➤ "When she finished, we stomped on the floor and whistled and shouted for more." (p. 28, l. 1-2).

This quote describes the situation when there is a speech contest at school. The subject 'she' in this quote is Stargirl. Stargirl managed to amaze many people with her speech. Her success in giving a speech in public has received a good response. Through this situation, it can be concluded that Stargirl has been accepted in the school environment through her achievements so this quote represents the high category of social acceptance (star).

> ➤ "The film ended, the lights went on, and the judges proclaimed Stargirl the winner. She would now go on to the district competition in Red Rock, they said. The state finals would be held in Phoenix in April. Again and again we whooped and whistled." (p. 28, l. 11-14).

This quote explains Stargirl's achievement. Stargirl is great at giving speeches so she won the speech competition at school. The victory brought her to reap more public praise. Stargirl's victory became a great pride so from this situation it was a star category which was the highest social acceptance category.

> ➤ "Such was the acclamation we gave her in those last weeks of the year." (p. 28, l. 15-16).

This quote also explains how the giving of praise and expression of pleasure because of Stargirl's presence. This quote also describes how her new friends give her a good opportunity and space to accept Stargirl as a friend. This quote proves that most people in school especially her friends want to hang out with Stargirl. Through that opportunity, Stargirl reaps sympathy and respect from her friends so that social acceptance of her falls into the star category.

1.2 accepted

This category is the second category after the star category. This category can also be said to be the standard category in social acceptance. The accepted

category is a category of social acceptance that is accepted by someone in a social environment because they have a personality and characteristics that match the environment. Here are quotes that support the category of accepted that Stargirl received in her school environment:

> "By sixth period the whole school knew: Stargirl had been invited to become a cheerleader and had said yes." (p. 18, l. 28-29)

This quote explains that Stargirl is starting to be accepted in the school environment. Stargirl even accepts an invitation to join the cheerleading team. This quote proves that the people around Stargirl are happy with Stargirl's presence. This quote concludes that Stargirl's presence has a positive impact on her environment so that she receives social acceptance in the accepted category.

> "By then most of us had decided that we liked having her around." (p. 19, l. 15-16).

This quote emphasizes that Stargirl is well-accepted. This quote explains that Stargirl's introduction period with her friends was successful. This quote even explains how the people around her decided to accept Stargirl. The situation at that time went smoothly without any rejection or protest against Stargirl's existence so it can be concluded that standard social acceptance was received by Stargirl in her school environment.

> "Next day the table was full. No longer did Stargirl eat lunch-or walk the hallways or do anything else at school-alone." (p. 27, l. 3-5)

This quote describes how Stargirl begins to get close to the people around her. Stargirl, who initially did not have friends to eat or hang out with, now has friends. This quote explains the situation of a fairly crowded lunch break. Through lunch, Stargirl becomes closer to her peers at school. This quote falls into the accepted category of social acceptance.

> "Girls liked her. Boys liked her. And-most remarkable-the attention came from all kinds of kids: shy mice and princesses, jocks and eggheads." (p. 27, l. 15-17).

This quote explains the social acceptance of Stargirl successfully. Everyone from all kinds of hobbies and different characters accepts Stargirl as a friend. This situation allows Stargirl to hang out with anyone and enter any club. This quote falls into the category of accepted people who just feel the pleasure of being friends with her and she has not entered a high level of popularity in the school.

1.3 fringer

This category is a short-term social acceptance category. This category allows someone to be accepted for a time but some time later that person is no longer accepted in the social environment. Here are quotes that support the category of fringer that Stargirl received in her school environment:

> " Kevin was right. It was unthinkable that Stargirl could survive-or at least survive unchanged-among us." (p. 9, l.8-9)

This quote explains Leo's feelings that he agrees with Kevin's opinion about Stargirl's existence. This quote explains that Stargirl will have difficulty surviving among them. Through this quote, it can also be concluded that Stargirl will have difficulty surviving if she does not change her appearance. This quote also explains that Stargirl can continue to be friends with other people if she can adjust to the lifestyle or habits of the children at school. The discussion in this quote falls into the category of social acceptance in the form of fringer.

> " At the same time, we held back. Because she was different. Different. We had no one to compare her to, no one to measure her against. She was unknown territory. Unsafe. We were afraid to gettoo close." (p. 19, l. 19-21).

This quote emphasizes that Stargirl is a girl who is different from her surroundings. This quote explains that no one in the school has the same nature

and appearance as Stargirl. The difference continues to bring fear to those around her. This quote is a representation of the fringer category in social acceptance.

> " I glanced back. At the height of Stargirl's popularity, kids had been pulling chairs from other tables to squeeze around hers. Now it was just Stargirl, Dori Dilson, and a ninth-grader. " (p. 70, l. 12-14)

This quote explains Stargirl's fading popularity. Stargirl lost many friends after several events that made her friends not like her anymore. Stargirl is still accepted by the people around her but only a few people can understand her. The crowd that she used to feel is now quiet because everyone feels afraid around her. This incident is something that happens because someone no longer gets the trust of the people around them so this quote falls into the fringer category.

From the data above, it can be concluded that social acceptance depends on how a person behaves. Stargirl is a figure who has achievements and an attractive nature so in adjusting to the school environment she was accepted by her friends at that time. Stargirl also initially had a nature that was by what her friends wanted. However, Stargirl only experienced social acceptance that was valid for a short time, even her popularity and good relationships began to fade because her excessive attitude began to be disliked by her friends.

Based on the explanation, it can be concluded that the causal factor for being accepted in a social environment is that we must have a nature that is by what is desired by the environment, besides achievement and popularity greatly influence someone in establishing relationships with members of an environment. The most important thing in the period of socializing and making friends, especially in socializing with peers, is how we can maintain ourselves by doing things that follow the criteria or desires of the group in an environment.

2. Form of social rejection

Social rejection is a form of rejection by a group towards someone. The social rejection that occurs in the Stargirl novel is social rejection in various forms. The social rejection experienced by the main character Stargirl such as bullying, insults,

spreading gossip about Stargirl, and closing access to join interest groups such as cheerleading and cross-country teams. In analyzing the social rejection experienced by Stargirl, the researcher uses qualifying social rejection in various forms, namely active rejection, passive rejection, other/verbal rejection, and social/peer rejection according to what (Baumeister & Leary, 2017) put forward.

2.1 active rejection

This category is social rejection experienced directly by someone. This category is a category based on the real actions of a group towards someone that is carried out or spoken directly to someone who is rejected. Here are quotes that support the form of active rejection that Stargirl received in her school environment:

> "Damon Ricci snatched the mike from Jennifer St. John. "So what's it gonna be next? Dog Turd?"

Uh-oh, I thought, here we go. (p. 44, l. 5-7) ".

This quote describes the situation that occurs in the Hot Seat podcast. Stargirl receives active social rejection in the show. The quote describes the words of a man named Damon Ricci towards Stargirl. The words spoken by Damon Ricci are included in active rejection because he carries out social rejection by uttering curse words from his mouth toward Stargirl.

> "You're not just a cheerleader, you dumb cluck"-Becca Rinaldi was snarling into the mike-"you're supposed to be our cheerleader. A Mica cheerleader." (p. 45, l. 9-11).

This quote is the words spoken by Becca Rinaldi. This quote contains affirmation and verbal violence against Stargirl. This quote contains an emphasis on Stargirl that she is a cheerleader for Mica school, not another team. In addition to the emphasis, this quote contains the harsh words "dumb cluck" to Stargirl. This quote contains action so it is categorized as a form of active social rejection.

> "Well, you sure have a funny way of showing it, making the whole school mad at you." (p. 46, l. 22-23).

This quote contains a satire on Stargirl's unique behavior that makes people dislike her. This quote proves that Stargirl is someone who is hated in her school environment. This quote confirms that everyone in the school is angry with Stargirl. This quote falls into the active rejection category because it contains satire and is said directly.

> ➢ "Gimme-" It was Jennifer St. John, reaching for the mike. "And out of school, too. You meddle into everybody's business. You stick your nose in, whether you're invited or not. Why do you do that?" (p. 46,l 26-28).

This quote describes a very strong active rejection. This quote explains about Jennifer St. John who expelled Stargirl from the school. In addition to being expelled, Stargirl also received harsh words of reprimand because she often interfered in other people's affairs. In addition, this quote also contains questions to Stargirl so that it can be concluded that Stargirl and Jennifer are in the same place, listening to each other, and facing each other.

> ➢ " I had been wondering when Hillari Kimble would speak up. Now she did. "I'm gonna tell you something, girl. You're goofy. You're crazy." Hillari was standing, jabbing her finger at Stargirl, chewing on the mike. "You must've come from Mars or something..." (p.47, l. 6-9).

This quote explains Hillari's very sharp words. Hillari shows her anger towards Stargirl through harsh words. Words like goofy and crazy are words that are included in the mocking words. Meanwhile, the words you are from Mars or the like are harsh words of sarcasm to Stargirl that she does not fit in with people who generally act normally. The utterance of harsh words is insulting or bullying so this quote falls into the active rejection category.

2.2 passive rejection

Passive rejection is a rejection without taking action such as bullying. This is done by distancing or ignoring someone. Here are quotes that support the form of passive rejection that Stargirl received in her school environment:

- "Her back was to us, so I couldn't see her face. No one sat with her, but at the tables next to hers kids were cramming two to a seat. She didn't seem to notice. She seemed marooned in a sea of staring, buzzing faces." (p. 5, l. 19-22).

This quote explains Stargirl's adaptation period. The refusal to get close to her was not because she didn't want to be friends but at that time she had not yet established closeness in the school environment. This quote also explains people who still keep their distance from Stargirl proving the existence of passive social rejection. It can be concluded that this is social rejection but not a serious social rejection because Stargirl is still in the introduction period with the people around her.

- "He sipped from his straw. "The silent treatment is going on. Nobody's talking to her." (p. 70, l.16-17).

This quote is a continuation of Leo and Kevin's conversation. This quote contains Kevin's reaffirmation to Leo regarding Stargirl. This quote also describes Leo's response who has not fully believed Kevin's words. Kevin convinces Leo that it is true that Stargirl has been ignored and no one wants to talk to the girl. This quote falls into the category of passive social rejection.

- "I managed to avoid her by taking different routes between classes, but she found me after school, came shouting after me as I tried to slink away: "Leo! Leo!" (p. 94, l. 22-24).

This quote explains the relationship that is starting to change between Stargirl and Leo. This quote explains Leo's trying to ignore Stargirl. This quote also proves that Leo has also started to do passive rejection towards Stargirl's behavior. This quote is included in passive rejection because Stargirl receives silent treatment and is ignored by Leo even though she tries to talk to Leo.

- " She called, "I guess you don't want to hear me practice my speech, huh?" I did not answer. I did not look back. (p. 95, l. 6-8).

This quote describes a situation that also occurs between Stargirl and Leo. This quote explains that Leo is no longer comfortable talking to Stargirl. This quote explains that Stargirl asks questions but Leo does not respond. It can be concluded that Leo continues to do passive rejection towards Stargirl.

> "It was she who said it first: "They still don't like me." We were standing outside the TV studio after school. As usual, people were passing by as if we weren't there. Her lip quivered. "What am I doing wrong?" Tears made her eyes even larger. (p. 103, l. 27-30).

This quote explains Stargirl who has started to feel rejected by herself. This quote represents Stargirl's sad feelings because she doesn't understand why something like that happened to her. Stargirl realizes that everyone doesn't like her anymore. This quote is a passive rejection because when Leo and Stargirl were talking they were ignored by the people around them and they even felt that their existence was not considered at that time.

2.3 other/verbal rejection

Verbal rejection can be done by spreading gossip. This aims to influence the way other people think. In this way, a group can be influenced by incorrect information. Here are quotes that support the category of other/verbal rejection that Stargirl received in her school environment:

> "I heard her name. Her name. The same two syllables, the same eight letters that I had been hearing all year, and suddenly the sound struck my ear with a ping of pure silver. I drifted sideways to overhear. A group of girls was chattering toward a bus.
> "When?"
> "Today. After school. Just now!"
> "I don't believe it!"
> "I don't believe it took so long."
> "Kicked off? Are they allowed?"
> "Sure. Why not? It's not her school."

"I would've kicked her off long ago. It was treason." "Good riddance." (p. 54, l. 16-27)

This quote explains the content of gossip from some kids in the school. In the gossip, they talk about Stargirl. This quote explains that the content of the gossip is about Stargirl's rejection. In addition to rejecting Stargirl's treatment, this quote describes the desire to expel Stargirl from school. This situation is a situation that falls into the category of other/verbal rejection.

➤ "He nodded slowly. "Yeah, well, I guess that's what I'm saying. It's not just one thing she did. It's everything. Don't tell me you never noticed. Remember a certain tomato?" (p.71, l. 7-9).

This quote explains the things that caused Stargirl to be rejected in the school community. This quote describes Kevin explaining to Leo that everything Stargirl did was what made him hated. Kevin tried to emphasize to Leo that it was not just one or several actions but everything about Stargirl that made them dislike her. This quote falls into other/verbal rejection because it can be said that there was gossiping between Leo and Kevin towards Stargirl.

➤ "Students said things. Not to me, not directly, but tuned for me to overhear even as they pretended I was nowhere near. They said she was a self-centered spotlight hogger. They said she thought she was some kind of saint-I cringed at that-and that she was better than the rest of us. They said she wanted everyone else to feel guilty for not being as nice and wonderful as she was. They said she was a phony." (p.92, l. 13-18)

This quote explains what Leo hears when people gossip about Stargirl. Gossip about Stargirl is circulating in school. This quote illustrates that people are talking about Stargirl who are not really sincere in doing good things but have other intentions and purposes. This quote represents the existence of sharp and spicy gossip that is thrown by children at school so this quote falls into the category of other/verbal rejection.

> "Most of all, they said she was the reason why the Mica Electrons were not soon to become Arizona state basketball champions. Kevin had been right: when she started cheering for other teams, she did something bad to her own team. To see one of their own priming the opposition did something to the team's morale that hours of practice could not overcome. And the last straw-everyone seemed to agree-was the Sun Valley game, when Stargirl rushed across the court to aid Kovac, the Sun Valley star. All of this was affirmed by our own star, Ardsley himself, who said that when he saw a Mica cheerleader giving comfort to the enemy, the heart went out of him. She was why they lost the next game so miserably to Red Rock. They hated her for it, and they would never forgive. (p.92, l. 19-30).

This quote explains gossip that talks about Stargirl's mistakes so that it is in the category of other or verbal rejection. This gossip describes the destruction of the school basketball team because of Stargirl's actions. This quote also describes people's annoyance towards Stargirl. The annoyance in this quote is represented through gossip blaming Stargirl, hating Stargirl, and even emphasizing that they will not forgive Stargirl.

2.4 social/peer rejection

Social rejection, especially from peers, can occur by refusing to give someone access. Social or peer rejection can include restrictions on freedom of speech, use of group facilities, and other things that the person wants to do in the group. This rejection limits the individual's need or desire to participate in group activities. Here are quotes that support the category of other/verbal rejection that Stargirl received in her school environment:

> "And right there in the middle of it all, in the midst of this perfect season mania, was Stargirl, popping up whenever the ball went through the net, no matter which team scored, cheering everything and everybody. It was sometime in January when calls started flying from the stands: "Siddown!" Then came the boos. She didn't seem to notice." (p. 36 l.25-30)

This quote explains the situation that occurred during a soccer match. Stargirl received social rejection that was a prohibition for her to do something. This quote explains that the prohibition against Stargirl occurred because Stargirl did something that did not by the expectations of many people. People's expectations should be that Stargirl supports her school's soccer team, not everyone or all teams. The incident in this quote is a form of social/peer rejection.

> "When the players came out from the locker room, the cheerleaders told them what had happened. They devised a trick. They told Stargirl that someone had forgotten something in the gym, and would she please go get it. With Stargirl gone, they told the bus driver everyone was aboard, and the bus made the two-hour return trip without her." (p. 37, l. 24-29).

This quote explains the social rejection of the cheerleaders towards Stargirl. This quote describes a situation where Stargirl is not allowed to use the facilities especially the vehicle to go home to their school. Stargirl is trapped so she cannot go home with them. This situation describes the social rejection (social/peer rejection) of a group towards Stargirl.

> "Next day in school, the cheerleaders told her it was all a big misunderstanding and acted as if they were sorry. She believed them." (p. 37, l. 30-32).

This quote describes the situation after they left Stargirl after the football game. This quote is a trick by the cheerleading team to Stargirl. This quote is included in social/peer rejection because what they said was not the truth but because they did not want Stargirl to go home with their bus. This quote also tells about Stargirl who is not angry and does not hate them.

> "There was no stopping Hillari. "You want to cheer for other schools? Fine! Go there! Don't come to my school. Get outta my school!" (p. 47, l. 14-15).

This quote is a social rejection that is harsh and expelling. This quote is the words of Hillary Kimble to Stargirl. Hillary's words represent that Stargirl's presence at the school is no longer wanted. This quote is included in social/peer rejection

because the words are a form of rejection by no longer allowing Stargirl to be in their environment.

> "I knew what they were talking about. It had been rumored for days. Stargirl had been kicked off the cheerleading squad." (p. 55, l.1-2).

This quote explains Stargirl who is no longer part of the cheerleading group. Stargirl did not leave the cheerleading team but she was kicked out. Through that, Stargirl no longer has the opportunity to express herself in the cheerleading group. This quote is included in social/peer rejection because it closes access for someone to do something related to the group.

From the data above, it can be concluded that social rejection can occur during adolescent social interactions in the environment, especially in the school environment. Stargirl experiences various forms of social rejection, active social rejection such as bullying, passive social rejection such as distancing or ignoring, other (verbal) such as spreading gossip, and peer rejection such as closing access to do something in a group. The cause of social rejection in the novel is due to Stargirl's nature which is not following what her friends want. Stargirl has a nature that is too dominant and does not care about what people around her say, Stargirl also has a personality that is considered strange by her friends because she not only supports the sports team at her school but she pays attention to all teams and everyone. In addition, Stargirl's appearance is also unique and is one of the factors that distinguishes her from the appearance of her friends at school in general.

Based on the data, it can be concluded that the presence of dominant adolescent traits that stand out in a group not only has a good impact such as gaining popularity but can be something that is not accepted by the environment because it is considered excessive. In addition, if someone, especially a teenager, has a high concern for people who are not members of the group environment, it can be one of the reasons why the group can hate him because it can be considered a form of betrayal. Based on the explanation above, it can also be concluded that the nature of being considered familiar and close to someone who

may not be too close and then doing things like close friends affects someone in their relationships. These things can cause social rejection for teenagers in the form of direct bullying and exclusion, direct insults or spreading gossip, exclusion in friendships, restrictions on facilities in groups, and neglect in daily activities within the scope of the group.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the study on social acceptance and rejection of the main character Stargirl at Mica school, it was found that Stargirl experienced three categories of social acceptance. First, in the star category, Stargirl was accepted by her friends because of her popularity and extraordinary achievements. Second, in the accepted category, Stargirl received social acceptance because her nature was initially by group expectations. However, the fringer category shows that the social acceptance she experienced was temporary, meaning that even though she was initially accepted, Stargirl later experienced rejection from the social group.

The social rejection of Stargirl appears in various forms, ranging from active rejection such as bullying, and passive rejection in the form of silent treatment, to verbal forms such as spreading gossip. In addition, Stargirl also faces social rejection in the form of peer rejection, where she is socially ostracized and prevented from participating in school activities. This phenomenon reflects the complex dynamics between social acceptance and rejection experienced by Stargirl in her school environment.

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