ABSTRACT

This study discusses about the journey of the main character, Dave, from Dave Pelzer's *The Lost Boy*, in searching of family love. This study identifies the reasons why Dave did the journey and the process that he had been through in order to find family love. Dave has a very dark life because of the abuse of his alcoholic mother towards him. That experience makes him become traumatic and have problems to trust other people around him. The setting that appears in the novel after he moved from his house has a big and important role in creating his new characterization in the end of the story. Therefore, this study attempts to identify both the reason and the process in searching the family love in terms of some formal elements such as character, setting, and plot using New Criticism as the main theory. According to New Criticism, the appropriate method that used in this study is close reading. By the findings, this study conclude the portrayal of Dave’s character, plot, and setting as the formal elements that work together to support the theme “a misery journey that had been through by Dave in search of family love”. The finding of this study also explains about the family that finally considered Dave as their own family and gave him love like what he always wanted. This study reveal the connection among the elements and create an organic unity as the main object of New Criticism.

**Keywords:** Journey, Family Love, Child Abuse, Formal Elements, Organic Unity