

## ABSTRACT

The lack of wholeness is experienced by individuals, consciously and or unconsciously. The lack experienced by the individuals leads to desire and the search for fulfillment, where they seek and fill the emptiness that consists of loss. The search for fulfillment that causes by desire requires a motion of separation, where the subject will be experiencing pain and enjoyment. The search for fulfillment also involves pain and enjoyment happens in the novel *My Lovely Wife* by Samantha Downing. This study aims to unveil and discover the *objet petit a* and *jouissance* of the unnamed husband in the novel *My Lovely Wife* by Samantha Downing. This research uses the psychoanalytic criticism by Jacques Lacan to reveal the *objet petit a* and *jouissance* of the unnamed husband. The method of this study is qualitative research, which uses primary and secondary data to help to analyze this study. This study's findings are parents' love and recognition as the unnamed husband's *objet petit a* and relates to his *jouissance* which is killing innocent people due to the pain of financial difficulties. In the unnamed husband's adult life, his lacking of *objet petit a* influences his thoughts and behavior where he views himself as an average person and a disappointment. Furthermore, his *jouissance* also affects his thoughts and behavior where his views on normal principles change and finding satisfaction on enjoyment which resulted from pain. The unnamed husband's enjoyment is paradoxical since his enjoyment satisfies him but also suffers him. The unnamed husband's pain of financial difficulties acts as a paradox since it is his pain that he must face before achieving his enjoyment. Since the unnamed husband's *objet petit a* is his parents' love and recognition, the reality of not achieving *objet petit a* made the unnamed husband pursue his desire within limits and achieve *jouissance*; killing innocent people.

**Keywords:** desire, love, *objet petit a*, paradoxical enjoyment, recognition