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**SYBIL'S MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES
DISORDER IN SCHREIBER'S SYBIL**

A THESIS

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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LETTERS
AIRLANGGA UNIVERSITY
2007**

UNIVERSITAS AIRLANGGA
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DISORDER IN SCHREIBER'S SYBIL**

A THESIS

**Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements For the Sarjana Degree
of the English Department Faculty of Letters Airlangga University Surabaya**



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2007**



TO MAMI AND PAPA,

I LOVE YOU SO MUCH...!!!

Approved to be examined
Surabaya, January 4 2007

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Surabaya, January 4 2007

Fatma Handayani

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ABSTRACT

Sybil written by Flora Rheta Schreiber is a novel based on a true story of Sybil Isabel Dorsett who lives with sixteen different personalities. It happens because she has had so many sexual and physical abuses mainly done by her parents. These sixteen personalities live independently on her, and it absolutely makes her confused about her own life. Then it gives effects for herself. These effects forbid her to live as a normal person who lives in the social environment.

In accordance with the statement of the problems, this thesis analyzes the cause and the manifestation of the main character's multiple personality disorder. To collect the data, the method used in this thesis is library research. The writer also takes data from internet to complete the analysis. The analysis uses descriptive analysis, applying psychological approach combined with theory of multiple personality disorder by Eugene L. Bliss. The approach and theory are applied to analyze the causes and the manifestation of Sybil's multiple personality disorder in Flora Rheta Schreiber's *Sybil*.

As the result, it is known that the tendency of suffering Multiple Personality Disorder comes from the person's traumatic feeling in the past. Therefore, Multiple Personality Disorder tends to be an unpredictable phenomenon. Instead of this tendency, ones who are suffering multiple personality disorder also wishes to live normally when they know that they suffer this kind of psychological disorder.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

In life, we often heard about the importance of family on children's mental development. Family is the first step for children to know the role of society. Family also the first place where children start to interact with their society. That is why family should provide condition which makes them feel safe, being love and to be loved by the other people.

This is in which the role of parents is needed. Parents and children relationship are extremely important in the formation of children's psychology and their self-esteem which is considered as a crucial contributor to psychological well being. Unfortunately not all the children in this world feel such favorable things. Some parents can not provide their children with love and cares. We often heard about parents who are rejecting their child, unwilling to love them, neglecting and even abusing their child.

When children feel that their needs for love and cares are not being fulfilled, it may happen that some of them will build and develop their own "world" which is consider as the place where they can hide and save them from harm. This condition will never realized by the people around them. In this case, children will suffer from psychological disorder which is called as Multiple Personality Disorder, a physical disturbance brought by some traumatic feelings. In the novel written by Flora Rheta Schreiber entitled *Sybil*, the true story of a

woman possessed by sixteen separate personalities, the portrait of this phenomenon is described excellently.

Flora Rheta Schreiber, a recognized writer and journalist on the subject of psychiatry, was educated at Columbia University and held a certificate from the Central School of Speech and Drama. At the City University of New York's John Jay College of Criminal Justice, she was a Professor of English and Speech, Director of Public Relations and Assistant to the President. She worked as a consultant in radio and television shows, appearing on over 100 radio and television programs in USA and other countries. She specialized in psychiatry, medicine and child development, winning many honours as a journalist for numerous psychiatric articles. Professor Schreiber published several other books including *Your Child's Speech* and *The Shoemaker*. She died in 1988.

In this book we are introduced to Sybil Isabel Dorsett: a woman who has always known that she is "different". This woman cannot explain accounted time, and cannot fathom actions that others claim she did. Her psychologist and friend, Dr. Wilbur, discovers that Sybil is suffering from Multiple Personality Disorder (MPD). Dr. Wilbur taps into Sybil's childhood by using the different personalities as a medium. Undisclosed childhood traumas are revealed to help explain and eventually cure Sybil's disorder. This story is remarkable because it is a fiction based on true story. It is a landmark case in the record of humankind, and proves to be an uplifting story to any reader.

The writer is interested in analyzing the work because Sybil, the main character in this novel, is the one who suffers Multiple Personality Disorder,

reflects the truth of what really happens in human's life and most of us are denying that person like Sybil really exists.

B. Statement of the Problems

1. What are the causes of Sybil's multiple personalities?
2. How Sybil's personalities are manifested in the novel?
3. How do those personalities affect Sybil's life?

C. Objective of the Study

1. To find out the causes of Sybil's multiple personalities
2. To find out the manifestation of Sybil's multiple personalities
3. To find out the effect of those multiple personalities in Sybil's life.

D. Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that through this study, the readers will get knowledge in understanding the psychological condition of the people who have experienced it. Hopefully this research may also give valuable inputs for other students who are interested in studying the aspects of psychology in literary works. The writer also expects this thesis to be able to serve as an example of the application of psychology in literary analysis, and thus bridge the field of psychology and literature.

E. Scope and Limitation

In order to avoid the overlapping explanation, the writer specializes the analysis in multiple personalities and its effect. The analysis will be related to the life condition of Sybil as the main characters of this novel including the cause, manifestation and its effect.

The character will be analyzed through dialogues, and actions to help the writer accomplish the purpose of the study. In addition, the writer uses the conception of multiple personality disorder by Eugene L. Bliss to get deeper analysis.

F. Theoretical Background

As stated previously, this study concentrates to analyze Sybil's dissociative identity disorder, both its causes and manifestations. In analyzing it, the writer will use an approach as a primary point of view for getting a determined outcome. The writer applies psychological approach since it is considered to be appropriate to support the analysis of the novel. The writer focuses in character's psychology in looking at Sybil's personalities. The definition of multiple personality's disorder in clinical psychology will be applied in looking Sybil's personalities.

G. Method of the Study

The writer will use the descriptive analysis method to give descriptive explanation that found in the work through the dialogues, events and actions in the story. The analysis aims to give explication of the text.

In analyzing the novel, the data sources are gained from the dialogues, events, and actions found in the novel. Technique of data collecting consists of certain steps. The first step is the library research. It is applied by gaining and collecting sources from books, articles, dictionaries, encyclopedias, and other printed materials related to the work of Flora Rheta Schreiber's *Sybil*. Other sources are also gained from books dealing with the literary theory and theory of psychology, internet, and other printed materials related to this work.

The next step is the classification. It is the step of classifying the data. After making the classification, the writer determines which data can be used in the analysis. The data will be then interpreted and discussed accordingly in the analysis having connection with the vision of the character in *Sybil*.

H. Definition of Key Term.

Alter : Also known as a "personality". Defined as 'an entity with a firm, persistent, and well-founded sense of self, and a characteristic and consistent pattern of behaviour and feelings in response to given stimuli. It must have a range of functions, a range of emotional, responses, and a significant life history (of its own existence). Many multiples have alters which may be characterized in typical

presentations, such as child personalities of various ages, cross-gender personalities, helpers, persecutors, etc.

Dissociation: A complex process of changes in a person's consciousness which causes a disturbance or alteration in the normally integrative functions of identity, memory, thoughts, feelings, and experience. Dissociation is normal in children and may be the only effective defense available to them against extreme anxiety caused by highly traumatic situations and acute physical and emotional pain (most commonly sexual abuse).

Dissociative Disorder: A group of psychiatric conditions which share certain common features.

Host : The alters that most frequently has "control" of the body. The host is often initially unaware of the other alters and typically *loses time* when they appear. He/she is the alter that most often initiates treatment, generally after experiencing a range of psychological and somatic symptoms, most frequently depression.

Integration: A complete unification or 'stable' *fusion* which the person can maintain on a long-term or permanent basis.

Losing time : Having no recollection of what one did during a given time period (hours, days, even years). Unaccounted for periods may be the most frightening and dangerous aspect of the dissociative defense in adults.

Switching : The process of changing from one alters personality to another. Switching may be stimulated by an internal perception of the need for a particular alter or by an external, environmental *trigger*. Individual with MPD have varying degrees of control over the process, gaining more control as treatment progresses.

Trauma : A medical term for any sudden injury or damage to an organism. Psychological trauma is an event that is outside the range of usual human experience and which is so seriously distressing as to overwhelm the mind's defenses and cause lasting emotional harm. Most individual with MPD have been victims or repeated child abuse, rape, and/or torture, but other kinds of psychological trauma, including severe neglect, can also cause MPD.

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In accordance of the objective of the study, the analysis will be focused on the discussion about Sybil's dissociative disorder that is specifically classified as Multiple Personality Disorder, both the causes and the manifestations. To accomplish this purpose, psychological approach and theory of dissociative disorder will be used as the core concept to analyze Sybil's multiple personality disorder. Eugene L.Bliss conception of multiple personality disorder will be used in this thesis. The concepts of personality, multiple personality disorder and its symptoms will be clarified in this chapter.

A. Personality

In Freud's opinion, the structure of personality includes three parts: id, ego and superego.

- **The id:**

The id cannot tolerate increases of energy that are experienced as uncomfortable states of tension. Consequently, when the tension level of the organism is raised, either as a result of external stimulation or of internally produced excitations, the id functions in such a manner as to discharge the tension immediately and return the organism to a comfortably constant and low energy level. This principle of tension reduction by which the id operates is called the pleasure principle..." (3)

- **The ego**

" The ego comes into existence because the needs of the organism require appropriate transactions with the objective world of reality. The ego is said to obey the reality principle..

The reality principle suspends the pleasure temporarily although the pleasure principle is eventually served when the needed object is found and the tension is thereby reduced..., it decides what instincts will be satisfied and in what manner..." (4)

- **The super ego:**

"It is the internal representative of the traditional values and ideals of society...

It represents the ideal rather than the real...

The main functions of the super ego are:

- (1) To inhibit the impulses of the id, particularly those of a sexual or aggressive nature, since these are the impulses whose expression is most highly condemned by society.
- (2) To persuade the ego to substitute moralistic goals for realistic ones.
- (3) To strive for perfection." (Hall and Lindzey 4)

Carl Jung (1875-1961), developed a theory of psychological types ascribing each person with one of two fundamental attitude types: introversion and extroversion. Extroverts are outgoing, easily adaptable, and confident about unknown situations. Introverts are hesitant, reflective, somewhat mistrustful, and not socially outgoing. Jung also postulated that people further differed from one another depending on the degree to which they developed the conscious use of four functions: thinking, feeling, sensation, and intuition. Thinking enables us to recognize meaning, feeling helps us to evaluate, sensation provides us with perception and intuition points to possibilities available to us. Jung considered feeling and thinking to be "rational" functions, whereas sensation and intuition were considered "non-rational" in that they give rise to knowledge that cannot be reduced to any other mode of understanding. Jung believed that people tend to develop one rational and one non-rational function in addition to the introverted or extroverted attitude. Jung's typology of the Extrovert/Introvert, Intuitive/Sensing, Feeling/Thinking model is able to describe eight personality types. In Jung's typology an introverted/intuitive/thinking individual could be characterized as an analytical person who delves deeply into problems forgetting about the world around him. Such persons are frequently loners who like puzzles and practical results. (Hall and Lindzey 7)

However, personality tends to be a serious discussion because it seems to be complicated if the person has personality disorder. In this case, the person has more than one personality what so called as multiple personality disorder

B. Multiple Personality Disorder

Based on Bliss' conception of dissociative disorder, Multiple Personality Disorder (MPD) is a mental disease that exists in about one percent of the population. Much research supports the existence of this disease and its origins, causes and effects on the people in who suffer with it. Multiple Personality Disorder is diagnosed when a person has two or more personalities. These personalities have the ability to control the person and make them do things that they do not remember or would normally not do.

Multiple personality disorder usually begins in childhood, but it is rarely diagnosed until adulthood. It is more extensive than other dissociative disorder and recovery may be less complete. It is much more common in women than in men. MPD is commonly accompanied by headaches, substance abuse, phobias, hallucinations, suicide attempts, sexual dysfunction, and self-abusive behaviour (Davidson and Neale 178).

When someone has MPD, they do not realize when another personality is in control or what they are doing. MPD is most often caused by early sexual child abuse. This child abuse is often intolerable, so that the person forgets these events and develops another personality to remember the abuse. When faced with overwhelmingly traumatic situations from which there is no physical escape, a child may resort to "going away" in his or her head. Children typically use this ability as an extremely effective defense against acute physical and emotional pain, or anxious anticipation of that pain. By this dissociative process, thoughts,

feelings, memories, and perceptions of the traumatic experiences can be separated off psychologically, allowing the child to function as if the trauma had not occurred (Cohen & Giller xx).

Multiple Personality Disorder can also stem from high levels of stress during childhood, again, usually from abuse. This stress manifests a personality within the person so the stress does not have to be dealt with. When someone has MPD they feel confused. They do not know why or when they have done a certain thing nor with or to whom. There are some early signs of MPD, but they are often mistaken for other disorders such as post-traumatic stress syndrome, schizophrenia, and/or bi-polar disease (manic-depression). A child with MPD could possibly have imaginary friends of any gender or age; MPD individuals will talk to themselves in a manner that is not like them, or honestly do not remember doing things. An example apart from normal childhood lying would be if the child drew all over the walls and when confronted, one could honestly see they do not remember the incident. The "personalities" in Multiple Personality Disorder are different within the person. Each personality can have separate memories, behaviors, physical attributes, and even a different gender than the patient. For example, when remembering child abuse, a patient may have a personality to just remember those memories of abuse and will act violent or withdrawn even if the patient is someone who is outgoing. The personalities serve different purposes. The self-help personality acts as the self-confidence of the patient and gives the person self-esteem in high stress situations involving confrontation. (Online)



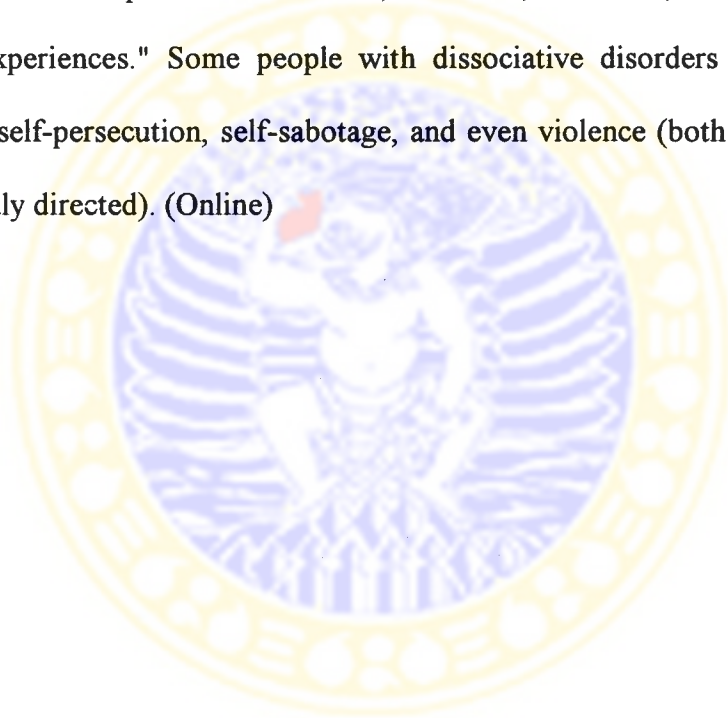
There are many variations of multiple personality. Sometimes two personalities vie for control of the person. Sometimes there is one dominant or core personality and several subordinate personalities. Some of the more common alternate personalities (or "alter personalities") include children of various ages, including one whose emotions were shaped by parental abuse; adolescents of the opposite gender; prostitutes; and homosexuals (Nevid and Rathus 214).

Multiple Personality Disorder is often referred to as a highly creative survival technique because they allow individuals enduring "hopeless" circumstances to preserve some areas of healthy functioning. Over time, however, for a child who has been repeatedly physically and sexually assaulted, defensive dissociation becomes reinforced and conditioned. Because the dissociative escape is so effective, children who are very practiced at it may automatically use it whenever they feel threatened or anxious -- even if the anxiety-producing situation is not extreme or abusive. (Online)

Often, even after the traumatic circumstances are long past, the left-over pattern of defensive dissociation remains. Chronic defensive dissociation may lead to serious dysfunction in work, social, and daily activities.

Repeated dissociation may result in a series of separate entities, or mental states, which may eventually take on identities of their own. These entities may become the internal "personality states" of a MPD system. Changing between these states of consciousness is often described as "switching" (Lauren and Jacob 179).

People with multiple personality disorder may experience any of the following: depression, mood swings, suicidal tendencies, sleep disorders (insomnia, night terrors, and sleep walking), panic attacks and phobias (flashbacks, reactions to stimuli or "triggers"), alcohol and drug abuse, compulsions and rituals, psychotic-like symptoms (including auditory and visual hallucinations), and eating disorders. In addition, individuals with Dissociative Disorders can experience headaches, amnesias, time loss, trances, and "out of body experiences." Some people with dissociative disorders have a tendency toward self-persecution, self-sabotage, and even violence (both self-inflicted and outwardly directed). (Online)



CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the analysis focuses on the main character, Sybil Isabel Dorsett. The writer of the thesis will analyze the personality disorder that is experienced by Sybil Isabel Dorsett which consists of its cause, manifestation and effects. Therefore, the analysis will be divided into three parts: the cause of Sybil's multiple personality disorder, the manifestation of Sybil's MPD, and its Effect.

A. The Cause of Multiple Personality Disorder

Sybil's first dissociation happens when she was a baby and the major cause of her multiple personalities is rooted in her mother, who was likely, a paranoid schizophrenic. Because of her mother, Hattie Dorsett who takes main effects of Sybil's disorder, on the analysis, Sybil's father, grandfather and her only one beloved grandmother do not really exist to be analyzed. Sybil's mother, Hattie Dorsett, had some serious mental illnesses. Dr. Wilbur, Sybil's doctor, speculated that the powerful surges of conflicting emotions upset Hattie's hormonal system and she become psychoneurotic. In any case, when Sybil was conceived after spent so many years waiting for a child, Willard (Sybil's father) was afraid that this baby, too, might not achieve life. Willard Dorsett's chief sin is that he ignored his daughter's growing emotional instability and allowed his mentally ill wife to continue raising the child even though he knew Hattie was

deeply ill. For two years, Hattie was depressed, and still Willard did nothing about her condition.

Thus secrecy and concealment surrounded Sybil even in the womb. Severe depression overtook Hattie after giving birth and lasted for four months of Sybil's life. The depression that followed Sybil's birth intensified the volatility and anxiety that had always been characteristic of Hattie Dorsett.

Learning of Hattie Dorsett's psychoneurotic at the forty and of her later aberrations within the Willow Corners community (the small town where Sybil lived), Dr. Wilbur became increasingly convinced that it was impossible to treat Sybil without having a full understanding of Hattie. Hattie had forged intolerable reality from which Sybil had to defend herself in order to survive even though the doctor was aware that it was a psychiatric cliché to make a scapegoat of the mother. She had resisted pinpointing Hattie Dorsett as a major cause of Sybil's dissociation into multiple selves, it was becoming increasingly difficult to resist the notion. It is because Dr. Wilbur can not directly ask to Sybil about her life in the past, the tortures and her abusive parent. Sybil can not remember all the actions that she ever done. The alters personalities are taking over the action when she was blackouts (losing time).

In late of 1956 and early 1957, as Dr. Wilbur came closer to the source of the original trauma that had led Sybil to become a multiple personality, there was a little doubt that the trauma seemed to revolve around her mother. It was the Willow Corner's mother (Hattie Dorsett), who returned from immobility at the farm, on whom the analysis then turned (188).

Hattie finally considered to have suffered certain mental disorder. This mental disorder turned to be very dangerous for Sybil's mental development. Hattie as a mother who had power to do anything to her daughter, always asked Sybil to steal something though Sybil rejected to do that. The quotation below shows us how Hattie teaches Sybil that steal someone's is a common thing.

“Now you get some too,” her mother ordered, but Sybil refused, as she also did when her mother asked her to get tomatoes from the Tomley's garden...

Even though her mother explained that the items never would be missed because the owners had more than they needed, or that the products on the loading platforms were out in the sun and would spoil anyway, Sybil felt it was wrong to steal. I (191).

From the quotation above, we can see that actually Sybil rejected all the things that her mother ordered her to do. But she just accepted it with no courage against her mother willingness.

Hattie Dorsett also suffers another psychological disorder. From the doctor's analysis, Hattie suffers Voyeuristic that is sexual disorder when one person feel satisfied if she/he peers into another person's activity. More over, Hattie did sexual activity with baby and little girls, and she got satisfied with that. The quotation below shows us what was happening at that time.

‘Now lean over and run like a horse.’ As the children squealed with delight at the prospect, Hattie would motion them to begin. Then, while the little girls simulatng the gait of horses, leaned

over as they had been instructed, Hattie from her perch on the floor, revealed the real purpose of the 'game'. Into their vaginas went her fingers as she intoned, 'Giddyap, giddyap'. Watching, Sybil and the other selves responded with the same intense shame they had experienced during the pilgrimages of defecation. (193)

The quotation below is the reality of Hattie Dorsett who likes to do abnormal sexual activity also did lesbian activity and let Sybil seen it. At that time, Sybil always saw what her mother always did, even though for the girl at her age she could not understand about it. However for the little child, it is completely wrong to let him/her see the sexual activity such as intercourse. It may give traumatic feelings for them, and may disturb their mental development.

Her mother and the girls were not getting into their suits, which were lying in a heap. Her mother and the girls were not standing. Their dresses, pulled up, were tucked above their waists. Naked from the waist down, her mother and the girls were lying on the ground, their hands intermingling, and their buttocks visible. Fingers moving. Palms stroking. Bodies gyrating. Ecstatic expressions. Everybody seemed to be holding somebody. Her mother was holding Hilda. Her mother's hands were at Hilda's crotch. (194)

Beside her mother's mental illness, Sybil's dissociative disorder also raised because of abusive behaviour that she had since she was a little child. That kind of abusive behaviour mainly done by her parents, especially her mother,

Hattie Dorsett. Hattie always punished Sybil for everything that she considered as a bad thing.

Childhood abuse, even when not particularly extreme, is often subjectively much worse than abuse experienced as an adult. Frequently, abused children live much of their adult life dysfunctional, due to the depth of depression, extreme low self-esteem, and sometimes the extremity of dissociation so common to abused children. These children often grow up to have little or no sense of self-worth and frequently turn to self-mutilation, self-destructive behaviours such as addiction or the (often sub conscious) seeking out of abusive partners, excessive unhealthy sexual behaviour, and sometimes suicide. (Online)

Abusive behaviour that happened on Sybil when she was a little child really takes great effects of her life. Her childhood was full of torture which was done mainly by her mother. In early 1957 the analysis found a cruelty drama, secret punishments, and atrocities inflicted by Hattie Dorsett on Sybil. Dr. Wilbur became convinced that the taproot of Sybil's dissociation into multiple selves was large, complicated capture control-imprisonment-torture theme that pervaded the drama. One escape door after another from cruelty had been closed, and for Sybil, who was a battered child four decades before the battered child syndrome was medically identified, there had been no way out (196). In the quotation below we can see how little Sybil suffers to face her insane mother who likes to do some kinds of strange ritual just to satisfy her insanity.

A favourite ritual, however, was to separate Sybil's leg with a long wooden spoon, tie her feet to the spoon with dish towels, and then

string her to the end of the light bulb cord, suspended from the ceiling. The child was left to swing in space while the mother proceeded to water faucet to wait for the water to get cold...

As the child swung in the space, the mother would insert the enema tip into the child's urethra and fill the bladder with cold water. "I did it" Hattie would scream triumphantly when her mission was accomplished. (198)

This was happened repeatedly and at that time Sybil was just a little girl who actually did not know anything except crying on and on. Hattie who is considered as an evil mother hated to hear Sybil's crying. She kept doing rituals which mean to hurt her daughter, and threatened her child not to tell anybody about the rituals. Hattie also threatened Sybil that God would punish children who dared to be against her parents.

The ritual was not complete until Hattie had warned, 'Now don't you dare tell anybody anything about this. If you do, I won't have to punish you. God's wrath will do it for me. (198)

Hattie also forbids her child to cry. She hates to hear her child crying. She always punishes Sybil if she is crying. Even though Sybil has so many reasons to be crying. If Sybil kept on crying, Hattie would beat her and said, "I'll really give you something to cry about." (198). By the time she was three and a half, she no longer cries.

Cruel behaviour was kept on doing by Hattie to her daughter. In her madness, Hattie said that she hated men. "Men are alike" (123). That is what she

always said to Sybil, making Sybil's point of view about men changes. More over, Hattie always does something cruel to Sybil that finally makes Sybil unable to bear a child.

There was still another morning ritual with which Hattie Dorsett took great pains. After placing Sybil on the kitchen table, Hattie would force into the child's vagina an array objects that caught the mother's fancy – a flashlight, a small empty bottle, a little silver knife, a buttonhook. Sometimes the objects was her fingers, performing as it did when she bathed the child and scrubbed so zealously that at two and a half the child locked the door and tried to bathe herself. (199)

From the quotation above we can see that Sybil was finally scared of her mother. In her early ages, she forced to do something by herself. No one can help her. No one can take her away from her mother, and she decides to do anything herself. She has no choice, because she doesn't want to be hurt by her mother anymore. Sybil fought back at first even though what her mother had done led her to think that this was indeed something that had to be done. Although the fight was literally beaten out of Sybil by the time she was two and a half, she blamed not the perpetrator of the torture but its instrument: the flashlight, the towels, the silver box, the shoe buttonhook. These tortures of course, had nothing to do with what Sybil had done. When Hattie wanted to punish her daughter, there were other means. Then Hattie would slap her daughter, and knock the child to the ground. Or Hattie would fling Sybil across the room, once ever dislocated one of

Sybil's shoulders. Or sometimes Hattie would give Sybil a blow on the neck with the side of her hand, on one occasion severely enough to fracture Sybil's larynx. Her mother tortured and frightened Sybil. And Sybil could not do anything about it. What was perhaps even worse, Sybil did not dare to get anybody else to do anything. Unconsciously, she preferred to split up her personality. Each personality explains her traumatic feeling. When faced with traumatic situations from which there is no physical escape, a child may resort to "going away" in his or her head. Children typically use this ability as an extremely effective defense against acute physical and emotional pain, or anxious anticipation of that pain (Cohen & Giller xx).

B. The Manifestation of Sybil's Multiple Personality Disorder

The torture that Happened on Sybil made her splitting of her personality into multiple. Unconsciously she created characters to cover her buried feeling. The feeling had no opportunity to be shown even though she was really in the level of high emotional feeling. Her mother always said no to tears. Tears and anger is a sin in her religion. That is why she splits her personality in case of the needs to runaway from reality. Each character represents her feeling. Each character has different personality, different needs, different thought, different talents and even has different ways of life and different ways of talk. But at first Sybil doesn't know at all about the alters personalities that she has.

Because of Sybil's disability to remember the entire story when she was "going out" of herself, the story of Sybil's life, every detail of the situation is told by one of Sybil's alter namely as Victoria Antoinette Scharleau, nicknamed Vicky, to the doctor and the author of this novel. Victoria is a stunning, charismatic, and intelligent figure who can be summed up by the word "glowing."

'But if you want to know where I come from, I'll be happy to tell you. I come from abroad. I come from a very large family. My mother and father, my brothers and sisters – there are lots of them – all live in Paris. *Mon Dieu*, I haven't seen them in years. My full name is Victoria Antoinette Scharleau. Vicky for short. One becomes Americanized, you know. One can't go around being called Victoria Antoinette. Vicky is easier'. (87)

The picture of Vicky; the way she shows connection with the other in her social life, is Sybil's willingness to be like what she has pictured in Vicky's life. To have good family, good parents who love her so much, finesse and elegance woman, friendly and good tasting woman. It is revealed by the conversation of Vicky and the Doctor when Vicky first came to the analysis room.

'Doctor, Sybil would like to be I. But she doesn't know how'

'Then Sybil know about you?'

'Of course not,' Vicky replied. 'She doesn't know about the Peggys. And she doesn't know about me. But that doesn't keep her from having an image of a person like me – an image that she would like to fulfill but that constantly eludes her'. (91)

Victoria is by far the largest contributor in the recuperation of Sybil as Victoria is omniscient, or all knowing. Whereas the other personalities, even Sybil herself, are not. This provides Victoria the access required to determine and convey the most harmful experiences of the others and to logically deal with them on her own accord while being able to help Dr. Wilbur, help Sybil.

From the Vicky's statement below, we can see that actually Vicky comes to recover Sybil from her pain. Sybil creates her just because actually she really wants to reveal all the pain she gains in a whole of her life

'But, Doctor, I really came to talk about Sybil. It's simply appalling the way she worries all the time. She doesn't eat enough, doesn't allow herself to have enough fun, and generally takes life too seriously. A little less self-denial and a little more pleasure would go far to counteract Sybil's sickness'. (87).

Before long of the analysis, Dr. Wilbur discovers that Sybil has many more than three personalities. All multiple personalities have one which knows everything and Dr. Wilbur becomes very dependent on Vicky to keep her updated on the actions of the 'others'. The most notable after Vicky are Peggy Lou and Peggy Ann who reflect Sybil's unrealized anger and fear against her abusive mother.

At the first time the problem revealed, Doctor found that Sybil has multiple selves, and the one who came first to the consulting room is Peggy Lou. Peggy Lou is Sybil's anger. As stated before, Sybil's mother forbids her to be angry, crying and many things. It is considered a sin. For all that reasons, Sybil

created personality that can represent her feeling. Peggy Lou is the one who can represent her anger. Peggy Lou is an assertive and enthusiastic. Peggy Lou is also the one who came first in Sybil's dissociation. Sybil's first dissociation actually happened when she was three years old. But the most frightening time when she was losing the time for about two years. When she felt so sad when her grand mother died. She could not remember the things she had done for over two years in her life. When Sybil finally returned to the reality, she found everything is already changed. Peggy Lou is the one who she created to handle out of her sorrow. The statement below is stated when Peggy Lou first met the doctor, and the doctor asked her how she could exist in Sybil's life:

'Want to know who wouldn't be insulted? Well, I'll tell you. The answer is Sybil. She can't stand up for herself. I have to stand up for her. She can't get angry because her mother won't let her. I know it's a sin to get angry. It's all right to be mad if I want to be.'

It clearly represents that Sybil and Peggy are different personalities. Peggy knows everything about Sybil, but Sybil knows nothing about the alters that she has. And Peggy Lou is the place where Sybil can express her anger freely. The name Peggy is taken from reality that Sybil's mother really dislikes about Sybil's name. When she was a little girl, her mother always called her as Peggy, and decided to call 'Sybil' only when absolutely necessary. At other times Hattie was determined to call her daughter as Peggy Louisiana, which later was often abbreviated to Peggy Lou, Peggy Ann, or just Peggy.

Lurking inside of Sybil's personality are also two male personalities, the carpenters, Mike and Sid, who have taken on the traits of Sybil's father Willard, and her tyrannical Grandfather. Sybil had made identification not with her mother, of whom she was terrified and ashamed, but with the males in her family. Her father let Sybil down, except for the one instance when he and Hattie had been having intercourse, he had not hit her or hurt her physically. Because she had to have someone, she had made her father a figure on whom she could depend. The identification was more natural because she looked like her father.

Mike and Sid reflected the antifeminist view: the thought that women sink through life for nothing to do except risking life in harmony. Their willingness to have penis is so strong and becomes penis identification. They were belittled women and try to deny femininity.

These boys without penises is the objectification of a woman's rebellion not so much at being female as at the connotations of femaleness evoked by the retarded culture of Willow Corners.

(259)

That rebellion, moreover, as Mike had made clear in saying, 'I don't want to be dirty girl like our mother,' (260) was a reaction against the distortions about sex that her mother had created.

As the narrator (in this case the author Flora Rheta Schreiber) writes about the possibility of female self creates male alters personalities, there had been no known male personality that developed into female selves. However, Sybil's case

shows different phenomenon. She creates male alters. (Since 1957 other multiple personalities who have developed selves of the opposite sex have been recorded).

The uniqueness, which before, was based on Sybil's having developed more alternating selves than had any other known multiple personality, was now founded as well on her being the only multiple personality to have crossed the borders of sexual difference to develop personalities of the opposite sex. No known male multiple personality had developed female selves. Sybil Dorsett was the only known woman multiple personality whose entourage of alternating selves included males (p. 260).

After the appearance of Mike and Sid the analysis suddenly began into terrifying religious conflict. In the next analysis, Dr. Wilbur finally found that Sybil's dissociation also happened because of religion distortions. Having thought the misconceptions of religion by her mother, Sybil feels being trapped in socializing her thought to anybody. In this occasions usually the alters take over the control of her mind.

In the consulting room at that time, the doctor finally found that Sybil still has many personalities that she never found before. There is Vanessa, Marcia, Ruthie, Mary. There, they have debated many religion's misconceptions that Sybil had in whole of her life. Doctor found that each alter had almost the same thought about religion. Except Sybil as a host, most of the alters personalities wanted to be free from environmental bondage where religion was omnipresent. All of the selves had independent religious convictions and attitudes. The

statement below is stated by Vanessa who was come for the first time in front of the doctor.

‘I’m not devout,’ Vanessa said with an attractive toss of the head, ‘but even if I were, the people in Willow Corners Church would have turned me off. They were bigoted, unjust, irrational, and hypocritical. I can’t see how they dared to call them selves Christians.’ Vanessa lips formed a satiric smile. ‘All the things you had to do to be right,’ she jeered. ‘The irony was that the things you wanted to do weren’t wrong... (264)

Vanessa was not quite ready to tear the church down, but she expressed contempt for both the church prohibitions and its congregation. Yet she was also sacred of about the meaning of God’s love. Her mother always tried to tell her that God is love, but she couldn’t understand what love was. It is because she was “loved” by her mother as the way her mother always been treated her. And she was unexpected that the God would be like her mother.

Right after the conversation almost finished, suddenly Sybil turned into another selves. There was another self came and took over Sybil’s consciousness. She was Marcia. She entered the scene to add a few variations on the theme: Marcia is religious yet resentful to the religion’s prohibitions, creating Sybil a sense of alienation and deprived her of the opportunity to grow up freely. Then after that, in succession, come forward, Mike and Sid who also made their way into the era of analytic religious debate, voiced a belief in God but contempt for religious rituals and histrionics. They were not religious but they were concerned

with religion. Ruthie, who is the younger character also came in and talked about the rebellion in the church's sandbox.

Of all the selves of Sybil, it was Mary, the homebody, to whom the religion meant most. Mary who had rejected the doctrines, the rituals, the florid symbolism of the faith, had incorporated within herself the unpretentious religion of grandmother Dorsett.

'I pray to God,' Mary told the doctor, 'but I don't go to the church. I try to be honest, truthful, and patient and to lead a good Christian life. I believe in "live and let live"'. 'This brings my solace.' (266)

Yet as the discussion of religion progressed, Dr. Wilbur could see that Mary was losing her serenity. She was troubled that the analysis would make her religion sounded inconsistent. As the analysis proceeded, the religious conflicts surfaced more and more. All of the selves had independent religious convictions and attitudes. All, except the Peggys, believed in God. All felt trapped by the church. Under the pressure of the confrontation with religion in analysis, Mary wanted to die, and the Peggys wanted to run away. Marcia and Vanessa broke away from some of the old restraints and began, in keeping with Dr. Wilbur's urging, to separate God from the church, the congregations, and the church's prohibitions. Feeling freer, Vanessa bought a pair of red earrings to match her hair and Marcia went to the movies on Sabbath, Marcia also dared, experimentally at any rate, to light cigarettes and take a sip of sherry. (267)

There is more significant that among the selves, Dr. Wilbur finally had revealed five another selves the doctor had not yet met: Marjorie, Helen, Sybil

Ann, Clara, and Nancy Lou Ann. Although they live in Sybil's life, the doctor is able to see the difference of each character sharply. They had a different performance. Marjorie was a small and willowy brunette with fair skin and a pug nose. Helen had light-brown hair, hazel eyes, a straight nose, and thin lips. Sybil Ann was a pale, stringy girl with as blonde hair, grey eyes, an oval face, and a straight nose. For the other people who do not know about Sybil, they will not recognize the difference of each alters. The appearances that have been told before was told by each characters. But actually there are no differences among the selves.

Marjorie was vivacious and quick to laugh. She enjoyed many things- parties and the theatres, fairs and travel, most especially games of intellectual competition, from which Sybil almost invariably withdrew. Marjorie had no hesitation in expressing annoyance or impatience, but she never showed anger. Most remarkably, she showed no depression as if she never had been in depressed in the past. Through some special immunity, she had emerged torturing period in Willow Corners without being hurt.

Helen, who seemed unassertive in manner, was nevertheless ambitious, determined 'to be somebody, to do things in my own way, and to make you, Dr. Wilbur, proud of me' (272). She seemed hiding some traumatic feeling about Sybil's mother. Because when the name of Hattie was mentioned, Helen broke away from the couch, where she had seated quietly, to clamber on all fours towards and then under the desk. Her arms folded over her breasts, her head bent

over her neck, her eyes wide with terror. Helen sat huddled in a heap. Her teeth were chattering noisily. (272)

There is also Sybil Ann who came when the analysis was still in progressed. From the doctor's diagnosis, Sybil Ann is suffering from *neurasthenia*, a type of neurosis resulting from emotional conflicts that usually are characterized by fatigue, depression, worry, and often, localized pains without apparent objective causes. When Sybil Ann took over the consciousness, the body itself tended to be changed. It seemed to grow smaller. At the first time she appeared, the body seemed to shrink, the suit that Sybil Ann was wearing seemed to stretch. On the other selves the suit fitted perfectly.

The next morning, one who came to the consulting room is Clara. She felt disappointed with Sybil. She thought that Sybil had prevented what Clara wanted to do. Clara hated Sybil; self against self in a woman divided. Clara wanted to be free from Sybil who she considered having a big steel walls keeping Sybil doing anything. Dr. Wilbur forced Clara to join her to break that wall, so that Clara could do everything whenever she wants to.

The next who met Dr. Wilbur is Nancy Lou Ann. Just like Clara and Sybil, Nancy has the same extreme fears and worries about religion, depression, and suicide ideas. The quotation below shows us that Nancy brings bad effort for Sybil, because she really wants to kill herself. She has not done that yet because there is still a worry about her religion.

'There isn't that much time left,' Nancy interrupted hysterically.

Then, quieter, she repeated, 'I'd like to die. But God doesn't let

me. You see I'd have to do it to me, and suicide is just as wrong as if I followed the Catholics' orders. It would give my soul to the devil either way.' (280)

For a couple days after Nancy appeared in front of the doctor, Sybil stood nearby the river. She wanted to kill herself, but fortunately, Vicky took over the place and saved Sybil from the suicide attempts that actually done under Nancy's control.

As Dr. Wilbur realized that another personality had been revealed, she analyzed that even though the evidence of mental illness on both sides of the family suggested a possible genetic factor, she was certain that the illness had been environmentally induced. The doctor now convinced that the personalities are the defender against the intolerable environment that has produced the childhood traumas. Each self is younger than Sybil, with their ages shifting according to the time of the particular trauma that each has emerged to battle.

In the last of analysis, other Sybil's characters finally revealed, Dr. Wilbur suddenly found out another self who she never met before. She is the one who has blonde hair, and very calm. She admits that she never comes to the consultation room, but she actually lives in Sybil's self for about nineteen years. She is the one who Sybil's would like to be. A picture of a girl without depression, living a happy life. She is a girl in a teenage time of Sybil's life. She has no a childhood trauma, because she doesn't know about the torture, the family, and the Willow Corners, which for every self has trauma about.

‘I’m not really new,’ she said. ‘I’ve been around for nineteen years. I’m the girl Sybil would like to be. Born in tranquility, I’ve lived unseen. An adolescent while the others still remained essentially children, I’ve carried no childhood traumas.’ (397)

The hopes that is pictured by the Blonde girl, who is Sybil’s girl dream, has brought new youth to the unlived life, to the womanhood aborted by depletion, and discontinuity.

After long hours, long days even years having consulted and analyzed Sybil’s dissociation, Dr. Wilbur finally revealed and solved the problem that Sybil actually suffered. She decided to melted all the alters into one personality. The process called fusion. From this process, Dr. Wilbur hopes that Sybil could integrate her self. Sybil now becomes an independent and confident woman. She feels freer to express her feelings. She can feel anger, sad, but she becomes though, not to be depending on her other alters. From the quotation below we can see how Sybil tries to be a new woman who can face all the things.

‘The old fears seem to be gone,’ Dr. Wilbur remarked. ‘You sound well.’

‘Oh, I am, Doctor,’ Sybil replied, smiling. ‘I’ve thrown my last fit. But I was fully conscious of everything that was happening during it. It was not the same way I took in the past.’ She added: ‘and the blonde? Well, I feel she is with me. I know that I will never dissociate again.’ (400)

Sybil's attitude towards her alters personality has completely changed, from initial denial to hostility to acceptance – even to love. Having learned to love these parts of herself, she has in effect replaced self-derogation with self-love. This replacement is an important measure of her integration and restoration.

The quotation below shows us how Sybil feels so glad about her new life. She can do anything and still remember it. She can do what she never did before because she had no ability of alters' knowledge. But now, after the analysis that she run with Dr. Wilbur, she feels brand new.

'Now I can account for every minute. When I wake up, I know what I did yesterday and can plan what I'm going to do today.'
 She looked at Flora and Flora's mother and asked with fervour,
 'Do you know what it means to have a whole day ahead of you? A day you can call your own.'(401)

Sybil has now integrated. She is no longer losing her time. All the ability that she has found yet as a new person, feels like a new thing for her. The world seems new because she is new, and real because for the first time in her adult life, she is a whole and real self.

C. The Effects of Multiple Personality Disorder in Sybil's Life

Sybil's multiple personality disorder has affected herself, after all the manifestation she has done. These effects forbid her to live normally in her social environment. Effects that mainly disturb Sybil's life that is she always loses her time. She does not really know what happened with her. Sometimes she can not

remember why she has ended up in a certain place or why the dress she really dislikes could hang in her closet. The first part of this novel took place where Sybil had found herself in the place where she really did not know about. She is lost in time. And when she realizes that she has lost the time, the horror comes over her. When she finally got back to the room where she unconsciously rent in a hotel, she found pajamas that are not her favourite one.

The pyjamas were rumpled, slept in. Had she slept in them? They were loud and gay, with bright orange and green stripes. Not her style. She always chooses solid colours, usually in varying shades of blue. The pyjamas she found were the sort a child might select.

(30)

From the quotation above, we can see that Sybil has lost her time, and yet at that time she could not get the answer about what had really happened on her. Everything goes on as a mystery. And sometimes she was frightened about it. Next on the analysis with Dr. Wilbur, the mystery about the bright pajamas finally revealed. One of the alters had took control of Sybil's consciousness at that time.

Sybil's first dissociation came actually when she was three years old. But the scariest time for her is when she was nine years old, when her grand mother died, and her parents forbid her to come to the funeral ceremony. She felt upset at that time, and unconsciously, one of the alters took over her consciousness in order to release her pain. When she was awoke, she sat in the fifth grade class room. Last thing she remembered that she was still in the third class. But now,

the mystery came to her when she got herself sat in the room that she considered she didn't belongs to. She had lost the time for about two years.

But how much time had gone by? This she still didn't know. She was in the fifth grade and didn't remember being in the fourth. Never before had that much time passed. Things were happening to her of which she knew nothing and over which she had no control. (141)

Multiple personality disorder creates difficulties for her to follow the lesson. When she was "gone" for about two years, all the memories, the ability to do the lesson were handled by her alters. These things really bothered her. Moreover when her teacher and also her mother got angry with her, because she was considered as a smart student. But now, when she returns back, all the ability is gone. She can not do anything. And she can not tell the truth to anybody. The quotation below is the situation where Sybil returned back to take the control of her mind:

Miss Henderson turned on her. 'But you've always been an A student. I don't know what's gotten into you.'...

Then in total perplexity, the teacher, walking back to the blackboard, threw a parting shot over her shoulder: 'You knew it yesterday.'

Yesterday? Sybil was silent. For her - she was beginning to know it now - yesterday was never. Things had taken place that she was supposed to have done or learned of which she had no knowledge. (140)

From this part we can see how Sybil finds difficulty when there is nobody believed her. The switching that has happened on her makes her difficult to remember and follow what she had to be followed. She can not completely learn what she wants to learn, because the memory when she was 'gone' belongs to her other personalities.

Suffering MPD also makes Sybil depressed. The depression that she experienced stop her to eat. She does not allow herself to have enough fun; she takes her life very seriously. There is even one day, where Sybil almost dies because one of the selves brings her to suicide. Lucky for her, because suddenly, one of the alters takes control, and forbids her to kill herself. She does not have lot of friends. She finds difficulties to have a friend. Because when she was still in elementary school, her friends always mocked her as she was weird and they directed her sinister epithet. The switching makes her weird. This made her unconfident to make a relationship with the others. This situation was revealed by Vicky, one of the alters that Sybil had. Vicky told the doctor that Sybil was very introvert. Again, the switching that she has always done is the reason why she can not gain a good relationship with others. Only her alter who can do a good relationship

'Oh yes,' Vicky replied. 'But Sybil paints better than I. My forte is people. I like them and know how to get along with them. I'm not afraid of them because my mother and father were always very good to me. I like to talk to people. And to listen them. I especially enjoy people and to listen them. I especially enjoy people who talk music,

art, and books. I suppose most of my friendship spring from this mutuality of interests...' (90)

From the quotation above, it's clearly said that Vicky who likes to make friendship is really different from Sybil. For that reason why everybody who knows Sybil as Vicky feels confused when she met Sybil as a real Sybil, rarely different with the one that they knew before (because Sybil can not remember any actions when she still in dissociation)

The only one who is Sybil's closest friend is Danny. He was a friend where Sybil could feel comfort to tell everything. To share story, and to ask anything when she was confused about her losing time.

Sybil was freer with Danny Martin than she had been with any human being except her grandmother. The freedom with Danny was the more remarkable because it came during the spring, summer, and fall of 1934, the very period during which, tricked by time, Sybil enshrouded herself in a green aloneness and fortified her usual reserve with special invincible armour against the world.
(143)

But then, their friendship has to be ended, beside of her father's disagreement of their relationship, Danny is finally leaving to another town and Sybil will be left again in her loneliness.

One of the alters that Sybil has, namely as Peggy Lou, who is the reflection of Sybil's anger, always mixes up everything wherever she wants to. There is one time when Sybil, at that time was controlled by her alter Peggy Lou,

walked alone after her appointment with Dr. Wilbur. She decided to experience something about the city because there were so many things she wanted to know. When she was just arrived in one place, she found a car that she considered as her father's car. She was wrong. But in her madness, she broke up the window. The owner of the car, who was actually not her father's car, asked for money back to pay the broken window. And Sybil, who suddenly took over the control, had to pay all the cost. Sybil was so confused, because of the broken window that she had to pay at that time, was not the only thing happened when she was losing the time. Sometimes she found that the money on her wallet 'disappeared' with no reason how she spent it. The multiple personality disorder that she suffers has cost her much money. And there is a time when she was bankrupt. Then she had to call her father asking for help. At her age, her father mocked her as a lazy girl because she has no bank account at all.

The psychological disorder that she has seems like forbid her to have a special relationship with the man that she actually likes. She feels worthless; she feels that she does not deserve to be loved. This happens at the first when she was fell in love with a man name Stan. Stan is Sybil's lover before. Considered as a weird girl who is always switching from one personality into the other, Stan ends up her relationship with Sybil. One day Stan sent a letter to Sybil. He was asking for relationship's discontinuity. Sybil felt disappointed at that time, and Peggy Lou took over the control. For that reason, finally Sybil decided not to make a special relationship anymore. She was afraid to fall in love anymore. That is why she bordered herself if there was a man who tried to date her. This also happened

multiplying the number yards by the cost per yards to see whether the total was correct. In the past Sybil would have appealed to her companion to check the accuracy of the receipt for her... But next, Dr. Wilbur had taught the new Sybil how to use the knowledge the selves returned to her, Sybil handled the transaction it herself.

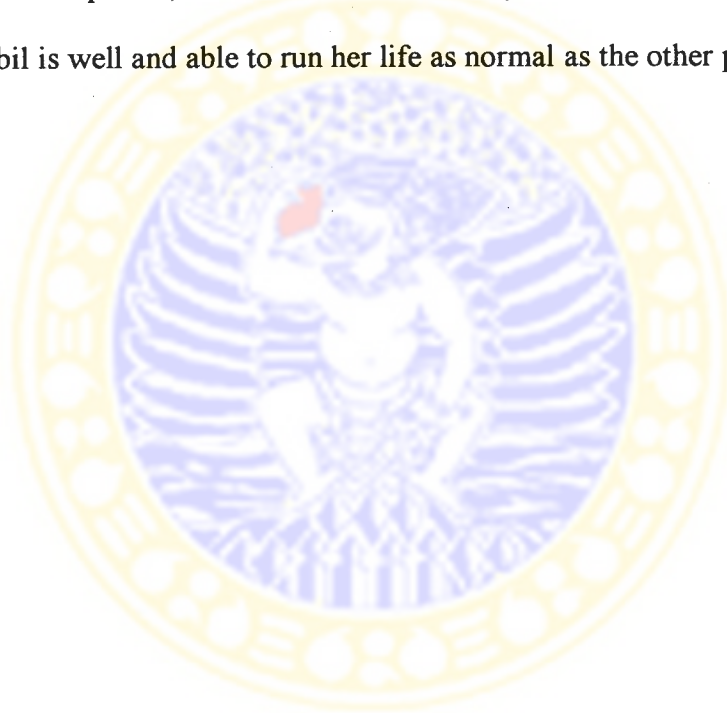
(403)

Here, we can see that Sybil in the past could not do anything unless the control was taken over by one of the selves. Even doing some kind of a job that is considered as a common thing for a healthy person just like account money or else, Sybil is unable to do. It is because she is separated by her true memory because she suffers multiple personality disorder.

Sybil knows that she can't do anything without that alters' ability. She remembers what has happened on her when she was nine to eleven years old. When she can not fathom actions, she didn't even count and did any lesson that she was actually able to do it. Those memories when she was out of control, the time lost can not be remembered by her. That is why when Dr. Wilbur tells her to do the analysis that finally comes to the integration, Sybil ever rejects it. But the doctor convinces her not to worry about that. Sybil finally accepts her condition, from denying to be acceptance. The others, who have been denied in the past because of lack of knowledge and denied in the present because of the shame, have been readmitted to awareness. The doctor's aim is to integrate all the ability, the memory, and the emotion of all the alters into one whole new Sybil. Therefore, the doctor has to preserve the waking self as such while returning to it

all the memories, emotions, knowledge, and modes of behaviour of the other selves, thereby restoring the native capacities of the original child. It also means returning the experiences of the one-third of Sybil's life that the other selves alone had lived, as the author comments: 'This was pioneer work for Dr. Wilbur.'

Now Sybil is a new person. Consider as a friend, Dr. Wilbur still accompanies her to control Sybil's emotion. But in the end of the story, Dr. Wilbur had reported, that as the one who really know about Sybil, she announced that Sybil is well and able to run her life as normal as the other person does.



CHAPTER IV

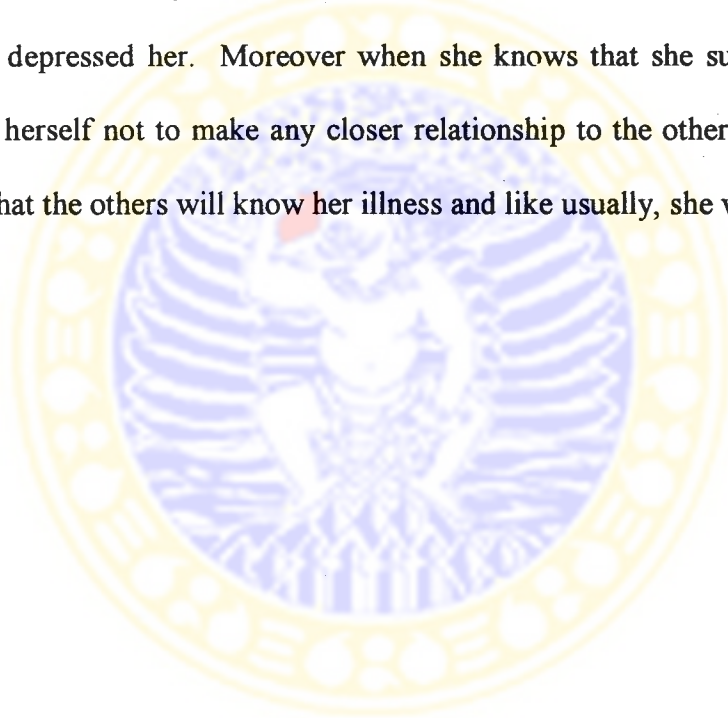
CONCLUSION

Sybil had experienced so many tortures when she was a baby. The tortured that she experienced has led her into the hardest time in her life. The MPD happens because she has been abused by her psychotic mother. The MPD that she was experienced before is a way in order to run away from reality. Sybil created it unconsciously because deep in her heart she can not stand to her mother behaviour, who was always abused her anytime.

The torture that happened on Sybil made her splitting of her personality into multiple. Unconsciously she created characters to cover her buried feeling. The feeling that had no opportunity to be shown even though she was really in the level of high emotional feeling. Each character has different personality, different needs, different thought, and different ways of talk. For example Peggy Ann and Peggy Lou which are the representation of her anger and her sadness. There is also Vanessa and The Blond which are the representation of her hopes and dreams to live as a girl who lives in a happiness circumstances. The others personalities generally represent her buried feeling. Vanessa, and the Peggys are the characters that mostly handle all of Sybil's memories. At first Sybil doesn't know at all about the alters personality that she has. She wonders how she suddenly could be in a certain place, has something that she consider is not her own, does something that she never did before. These periods are the result of Sybil's alternate personalities

taking over in order to cope with emotions that Sybil herself had learned to block out during her childhood.

The MPD that she has also creates some effects for her life. These effects forbid her to live normally in her social life. The effect that mainly disturbs her is she always loses her time. She doesn't certainly know what had happened with her. The MPD also creates difficulties for her to follow the lesson. It is because she loses her memory when the alters take over the control of her mind, and it is usually depressed her. Moreover when she knows that she suffers MPD, Sybil forbids herself not to make any closer relationship to the other people. She was afraid that the others will know her illness and like usually, she will be left alone.



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SYNOPSIS

Sybil fights an increasing 'loss of time' where she cannot remember why she has ended up in a certain place or why 'that dress' hangs in her closet. Knowing she is mentally ill, she begs her father, Willard Dorsett, to allow her to visit a psychiatrist. Her local physician suggests a Dr. Wilbur, a female psychologist, but her parents are skeptical. Highly religious, they believe that such intervention is sinful. Yet, Mr. Dorsett knows there is something drastically wrong and reluctantly allows Sybil to visit the doctor in August, 1958.

Sybil, though desperately needing help, tries to disguise her problem and before she can receive any real help, comes down with a fever and unbeknownst to her, her mother Hattie cancels her appointment. In 1948 Hattie dies and Sybil tries to work but her bouts with 'lost time' continue until finally, in 1954, she locates Dr. Wilbur in New York and moves there for therapy. It is months after her first session that Dr. Wilbur meets the first of the many other personalities in Sybil. Her name is Vicky, and she knows what all the 'others' do and think, but keeps all knowledge of her other selves from Sybil. Dr. Wilbur is excited. This is a major breakthrough and she reads all she can on dual personalities. Nothing much has been noted except for the highly publicized story of Eve who had three distinctive personalities.

Before long, Dr. Wilbur discovers that Sybil has many more than three personalities. All multiple personalities have one which knows everything and Dr. Wilbur becomes very dependent on Vicky to keep her updated on the actions of

the 'others'. The most notable after Vicky are Peggy Lou and Peggy Ann who reflect Sybil's unrealized anger and fear against her abusive mother. Dr. Wilbur is gradually introduced to the dramatic Vanessa, the artistic Marcia, and the suicidal Sybil Ann. Lurking inside are also two male personalities, the carpenters, Mike and Sid, who have taken on the traits of Sybil's father Willard, and her tyrannical Grandfather. Willard Dorsett's chief sin is that he ignored his daughter's growing emotional instability and allowed his mentally ill wife to continue raising the child even though he knew Hattie was deeply ill. For two years, Hattie was catatonic, and still Willard did nothing about her condition.

Hattie Dorsett, when alert, was a monster. Sexually and physically abusive, Sybil suffered a broken larynx, dislocated shoulder, a bead up her nose, black eyes and constant bruises, as well as intense sexual abuse involving a shoe hook which resulted in Sybil's incapability to have children. Why, asked the doctor, when Willard finally agreed to come in for a 'chat' did he allow this to go on? Passive and indifferent, Willard answered he simply felt that a mother should raise her child and that their belief in God was enough. It was not and a shaken Willard agrees that Sybil needs much more therapy and agrees to send his daughter a check each month to make sure she is treated.

Sybil, after three years of intense sessions with Dr. Willard is still reluctant to 'meet' her other personalities. She believes that her other selves may have committed 'sins' and deeply religious, Sybil is terrified to learn what they might have really done. After the 'Peggy's' flee to the countryside for a holiday, Dr. Wilbur finally convinces Sybil to hear the tapes she's made about what they did

while vacationing. There pastimes were pleasant, even fulfilling and Sybil finally acknowledges their existence and their right to be there. The sixteen personalities were her protectors against the cruel Hattie and the voices that fought back against constant neglect, abuse, and indifference. It is Dr. Wilbur's duty to try and merge these separate personalities into one new Sybil. It takes eleven years, but finally, after three sessions a week and a financially supportive father, a new Sybil emerges. Sybil realizes her dream to become a college professor and an artist and writes Dr. Wilbur in 1969, after a year of no 'lost time' that she is finally not afraid and able to live a full life.

