THE INFLUENCES OF PEERS TOWARDS SAYURI’S ADOLESCENCE IN MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA BY ARTHUR GOLDEN

Sitti Fathia Bule1, Marianus W. Liru2, Yuliana M. D’Karmel Kara3
English Literature Study Program, Flores University-Ende1,2,3
fathiabule@gmail.com1, limanada8@gmail.com2, melkar76@gmail.com3

ABSTRACT: The current study was intended to find out Sayuri’s adolescence development in Arthur Golden Memoirs of a Geisha and the influences of peers towards Sayuri’s adolescence in Arthur Golden Memoirs of a Geisha. This study used descriptive qualitative method. In analysing the data, some steps were adopted by classifying and explaining the data based on the theories, and paraphrasing and analysing the quotations related to the problems. Based on the data analysis, there are three aspects of getting her personality, namely searching for identity; the adolescence rebellion; adolescent sexuality. The influence of peers based on two aspects, namely the relationship between peers and the interaction between peers. In their relationship, peers influence how to talk, dress, and be as a perfect woman. In their interaction, the influences occurred to build up the attitude and personality.

Key Words: Influence, peers, adolescence

INTRODUCTION

Literature is simply another way in which the readers can experience the world around through imagination. It means that literature usually sets down in printed character for the readers to read. The primary aim of literature is to give pleasure or to amuse those who read it. Basically, literary work presents a picture of life which has similarities with the real daily life, like character, situation, and conflict. Literature refers to activities and creativities of someone in society that express about feeling, experiences, opinion, or anything in writing form. All authors, especially a poet, novelist, and dramatist pass on us about some feeling or ideas which we at once recognize as being a part of our experience either actually or potentially (Moody, 1984:2). Literature, however, makes a stronger and deeper impression that can be acquired through reading textbooks on sociology, psychology, and ethnology.
One of literature works is novel in spite of drama and poetry. In fact, it is narrative fiction of considerable length in which characters and representative actions of real life are portrayed in a plot of more or less complexity (Rees, 1973:106).

A novel is a literary art, a story longer, more realistic, complicated and built up of elements in unity and harmony. Rees (1973:114) argued that there are three types of novel. The first is allegorical novel, which uses character, place, and even represents abstract ideas and demonstrates some thesis. The second is historical novel that is settled in the past and takes its character and events from the story. The third is social novel which concerns with the influence of social institutions, social economic and social condition on character and events. The novel is a picture of real life that illustrated attitudes, regarding society, history and general culture. It also introduces the living world and aspects resembling the world we live in, and the human development.

Furthermore, Strommen (1983:240) stated that an adolescent is not just someone who has attained a given age, reached reproductive maturity, or moved beyond the dependent roles of a child. An adolescent may be all of these things, or none of them, or much more. This is because adolescence involves changes among numerous processes involving the biological, psychological, sociological, cultural, and historical dimensions of existence. Sayuri is the main protagonist in the novel. She is a round or complex character. The novel is narrated in a first person style from her perspective and it tells her life story. Her story begins when she was a child. As a child, she is known by the name “Chiyo”. Chiyo spends the early years of her life with her fisherman father and ill mother growing up in a tiny fishing village called Yoroido. She is nine years old and uneducated daughter of the fisherman Sakamoto Minoru and his second wife. An intelligent and imaginative girl with light gray eyes, Sayuri’s future in Yoroido is bleak. Several unusual circumstances bring her to the attention of Tanaka Ichiro the wealthiest men in the village, an owner of the Japan Coastal Company. Ichiro brokers the sale of Sayuri and her sister Satsu to business in Gion. Derived directly from the explanation above, the current study is intended to find out the factors in getting personality in adolescence and the influences of peers towards Sayuri’s adolescence in Arthur Golden Memoirs of a Geisha.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

During adolescence, it is normal for young people to establish their own identity. In some cases, this may occur without a problem from their parents and other family members. However, in some families, the adolescent rebellion may lead to conflict as the parents try to keep control over that. As adolescents pull away from their parents in a search for identity, their friends become more important. Their peer group may become a safe haven, in which the adolescent can test new ideas. Members of the peer group often try to act alike, dress alike, have secrets codes or rituals, and participate in the same activities. Adolescence is the transition period from childhood to adulthood, a period that brings sometimes tumultuous physical, social, and emotional changes (Warga, 1983: 240). It means that the sudden and rapid physical changes that adolescence goes through make adolescents is very self-conscious, sensitive, and worried about their own body changes.

In adolescence, personality is conceived of as the product of interaction between hereditary and environmental factors let us examine both areas of influence. Since from birth onward, heredity and environment interact, it is impossible even at the age of to say how much of a child personality is attributable to one or the other. A child may inherit an irritable temperament from his father, but it is his mother, who reacts to it, with resulting consequences for the child personality. Papalia and Olds (1985:452) stated that there are four factors in getting personality in adolescence; which are (1) The Search for Identity. The most tasks for adolescence are the search for identity, the quest to find out
“who I really am”. Falling in love is seen by Ericson (in Papalia and Olds 1985:452) as an attempt to define identity. (2) The Adolescent Rebellion, the authoritarian control that is linked to rebelliousness in children. (3) Career development, some teenage workers spend the money they earn on alcohol or drugs, develop cynical attitudes toward working, and cheat or steal from their employers by the time they have been on a job six or seven months. (4) Adolescent sexuality that comes to the fore during adolescence, but it is still not most young people primary interest, generally ranking lower among teenagers than future work, understanding other people, and even sports.

While, peer influences operate not only in naturally-occurring peer groups but also in groups that are assembled by adults for purposes of intervention. The peer influence effect held mainly for those adolescents who had at least some prior experience with that offense for younger adolescents, and for adolescents who were placed with slightly older peers. Peers are more influential in adolescence than at any other time in life. The quality of the relationships between adolescents and their peers, as well as the type of peers they associate with, play important roles in aiding or impeding their current and future functioning. There are aspects of all peer relation that are unique to the culture and environment in which they exist. (1) Peers relationships in adolescence. Peers have the ability to make an adolescent feel on top the world or at the bottom of the social ladder. Peers hold the key to adolescent popularity or rejection. Peers informally instruct the adolescent on how to talk, how to dress, and how to eat. And it is often the intensity of the way one conforms to peer- group norms that serves as a basis of parents- adolescents’ conflict. Probably the most controversial changes during adolescence are those linked to peer relationships; (2) Peers interactions in adolescence; social interactions outside the family may be more likely to advance moral development because by avoiding the inevitable power differences between parents and children, they more readily may promote the reciprocal and mutual interactions involved in morally principled thinking. It may be that children greater interactions with their peers, who by definition are equal to them, provide them with the precise context necessary to facilitate moral development (Lerner, 1983:272). There is one particular institution in social context which, other than the family, may be the most important arena for moral reasoning as well as all other aspects of cognitive development; (3) Acceptance by peers towards adolescents. The measures most often used to learn the degree to which an individual is accepted by others is the sociometric method devised by Moreno (1934) in Johnson (1965:350). Sociometric studies also provide some indication of group morale and single out children within the group who need help to achieve a satisfactory adjustment. A child ignored within a group might be a highly accepted leader in another. However, this becomes less likely with increase in age. The older rejected child is not likely to benefit greatly from transfer to another group because he has developed certain roles and response tendencies that will probably persist in a new environment and lead to his rejection there.

There are three factors in acceptance according to Johnson (1965: 351). They are (1) Social maturity. The prime requisite for social acceptance in childhood and adulthood, for that matter is social maturity as defined by the groups to which the individual belongs. Childhood is a time of sharp gradations of age, perhaps because age alone tells so much about the social behavior of a child. Social maturity and game skills vary with age; thus, playing with older but not younger children connotes a learning situation; (2) Sex. Social maturity is not the only factor entering into acceptance by one peers. One of the most potent determinants of how well one child is accepted by another during most of childhood is the sex of children in question. Generally, girls are more rejecting than boys, turning away from other girls and parents as well as from boys.’ (3) Social class. Class and
caste also play a part in acceptance by peers. They begin to have considerable effect during childhood and increase their influence as children become more accurate judges of social class position. Both class and color play large roles in acceptance partly because propinquity or closeness is an important element in determining choice of friendships. Since the chance of any two children being neighbors results in part from class and race, it is not surprising to find that the more stable choices of friendship in later childhood and adolescence depend somewhat on these two factors. This type of segregation on the basis of area of residence does much to keep class and race differences in values and interests in existence.

Acceptance by peers is not all good, nor is rejection all bad. Achievement as an adult apparently depends to some extent to lack of involvement with peers. Yet a continuing rejection by one peer seems to predict even mutual maladjustment better than does an adult’s diagnosis of problem child. The term peer group implies that one is being judged by his equals. These judges are harsh but generally accurate, perhaps because they judge less from the prejudices of society and more from individual merit than does the adult world. Children are interested in other children early in life, yet their interactions are minimal because of their inadequate impulse control and their inability to have much feeling the other person. Children vary greatly in the degree to which they are accepted by children of the same age and to which they become involved in peer activity. Measuring devices enable the social scientist to assess the acceptance of children by their mates and to determine the personality traits the associated with acceptance or rejection by peers. Peers can influence individual decision making processes even without direct interaction. Peer influences do not operate independently but remain interconnected with family influences in complex ways. Peer influences operate sequentially, competitively, or in a compensatory fashion at different stages of development. As youth enter early adolescence, continued support and involvement and, particularly, their knowledge and supervision of adolescent's activities are important to help manage children experiences with peers and their expanding time spent outside the family.

METHODS

The study used a qualitative descriptive method. The method employed in the study was descriptive, and the study is aimed at describing some phenomena that are found in the data without employing any treatment to the source of the data. The data were in the forms of words or expressions by which no statistical procedure is employed. Source of data that used in this study was the novel, Memoirs of a Geisha which consists 35 chapters of 493 pages by Arthur Golden in the form of sentences and phrases. In analyzing the data, the writer focuses in Sayuri’s adolescence, the influences of peers towards her adolescence. To resolve the problems, the writer will use library research for searching the theory which related to the problems of the study. In order to get better understanding about the influences of peers towards adolescence, the writer conducts some steps in collecting the data to solve the problems of this study, as follows reading the novel Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden carefully and thoroughly, Identify phrases and or sentences that show the influences of peers towards Sayuri’s adolescence, and finding out all the quotation of the influences of peers towards Sayuri’s adolescence in the novel. After collecting the data, three steps in analyzing data are classifying and explain the data of the research based on the theory, paraphrasing and analyzing the quotations which are related to the problems, and drawing conclusion based on the data analysis.

DISCUSSION
In understanding the influence of peers towards adolescence, the writer describes character through character and the other characters that refer to what the other say and think about him or her. Peer groups are an important influence throughout one’s life, but they are more critical during the developmental years of childhood and adolescence. There is often controversy about the influence of a peer group versus parental influence, particularly during adolescence. Recent studies show that parents continue to have significant influence, even during adolescence, a reassuring finding for many parents. It appears that the power of the peer group becomes more important when the family relationships are not close or supportive. Peer acceptance represents social status or popularity within a large group, whereas friendships represent relationships based on mutual respect, appreciation, and liking.

**The Factors in Getting Personality in Adolescence by Sayuri in Arthur Golden Memoirs of a Geisha**

Adolescence personality is conceived as the product of interaction between individual and the other society. Generally, there are four factors in getting personality in adolescence. In *Memoirs of a Geisha*, the writer finds out three factors in getting personality by Sayuri in her adolescence. Below, the writer will describe three factors in getting personality by Sayuri.

**The search for identity**

In searching for identity, an adolescent explores new interests, testes themselves in new competencies, and gets touch with the values they believe in. By becoming intimate with another and sharing thoughts and feelings, the adolescent offers up his or her identity, sees the loved one, and is better able to clarify the self. In *Memoirs of a Geisha*, Sayuri gets her identity, when she was ten years old. At the time, she gets news from Mr. Tanaka that tells about her sister who has been left by her boyfriend. Consequently, she gets sadness. When she is upset, she meets a man who says something to her. The man is Ken Iwamura who is called as the chairman. She falls in love to him and tries to know everything about him. After meeting the chairman, she has a hope to be a geisha in order that she may meet again with the chairman. The chairman makes Sayuri get her personality and power of life to be a real geisha. The explanation above can be illustrated below:

> “Here you are… a beautiful girl with nothing an earth to be ashamed of,” he said.
> “And yet you’re afraid to take at me. Someone has been cruel to you… or perhaps life has been cruel”.

The quotation above is the conversation of the chairman with Sayuri. The chairman gives her motivation and power to rebuild up her personality and teaches her not to give up in life. She falls in love instantly with the chairman. He immediately promises her that he will do such things what she desires. Falling in love is as an attempt to define identity.

> “From the moment the chairman had first spoken to me, I’d forgotten that I was watching for a sign about my future”.

Since she has met the chairman, Sayuri desires to be a geisha in order to meet again with him someday. She does not know whether or not she loves him, but she hopes him endlessly. He shows his kindness by making her to be a geisha. Meanwhile, Sayuri is taken under the control of another geisha named Mameha who teaches her getting better life as a geisha. In the contrast way, it is opposite with what Hatsumomo desires. The changes in their bodies make the young people ask who they are and what they will be.

**The adolescent rebellion**

Authoritarian parents with their protective control make the adolescent revolt the decisions being claimed. The decision proclaimed by their parents is sometimes refused even they will be away and
leave their parents. The young person proudly asserts individuality from what parents like or independence of what parents want and in each case succeeds in provoking their disapproval. This is why rebellion, which is simply behavior that deliberately opposes the ruling norms or powers that be, has been given a good name by adolescents and a bad one by adults. In Memoirs of a Geisha, Sayuri rebels when she is sold to Mr. Tanaka by her father. The explanation above is depicted by the following quotation:

“I suppose I take care of myself these days”.

The quotation above is the conversation between Sayuri and Mr. Tanaka that is depicted in chapter two of the novel. Mr. Tanaka wants to adopt Sayuri and her sister. He persuades her to follow him and promises her having a better life. She extremely rejects it due to the reason that her parents are old. Her mother is being sick. She, however, says that to obtain the best is at her own destiny, not by joining him to Yoroido. Adolescent rebellion begins as a result of the desire to become independent. The opposite of this would be a child who had no desire to leave home, refuses to take on responsibilities, and cannot make appropriate decisions. Becoming an adult includes the beginning of personal decision making and because our teens are inexperienced, they are naturally going to make mistakes.

“But, father… wasn’t there anything else?”

The quotation above is the conversation between Sayuri and her father. She refuses her father’s decision who sells her to Mr. Tanaka. Having rejected it, Sayuri is traded by her own father to Geisha house for her father deems that he can give nothing for her in better life. He suggests Sayuri to follow Tanaka’s invitation to establish her perfect life. In geisha house, Sayuri feels oppressed and miserable. She gradually understands about her plight, misery, helplessness, and the mystery of her life. Every day, she works hard to be a geisha. Before being a geisha, she becomes a maid at Okiya’s house. She never thinks that her destiny will be hard in Okiya. She wants to escape from okiya with her sister, Satsu. Another rebellion of Sayuri in Memoirs of a Geisha is when she is in Okiya’s house. She is rebelling with the decision of the owner of geisha house who makes her a maid before being a geisha.

“I have to run away. I can’t stay here in this place any longer”.

Based on the quotation depicted above, Sayuri and Satsu have a great plan to escape from Okiya. Sayuri complains to Satsutsu that she is displeased in Okiya and she wants to return home in Yoroido. At night, Sayuri starts to escape when the brothel keeper and other geishas are sleeping. She climbs the roof and tries to jump down the railway. Later, she slips that makes the brothel keeper wake up. After getting her in, the mother is angry and punishes her to be a real geisha for a long time. The young person proudly asserts individuality from what parents like or independence of what parents want and in each case succeeds in provoking their disapproval. This is why rebellion, which is simply behavior that deliberately opposes the ruling norms or powers that be, has been given a good name by adolescents and a bad one by adults.

Adolescent sexuality

Sex is a prime interest. It is usually in the context of a relationship, apparently engaged because of the young persons to search for identity through intimacy than for impulsive physical gratification. Most young people prove sex before getting marriage, especially within a loving of affectionate relationship. In Memoirs of a Geisha, Sayuri is approving her sexuality with the chairman. It is supported by the quotation below.
The quotation above is the conversation of Sayuri and the Chairman. Sayuri tries to remind the chairman about her, when she meets him at first. She is a real geisha with the great hope that she can meet the chairman who has encouraged her to build up her personality. She wants to live together with the chairman during her life. The sexual behavior of adolescence is, in most cases, influenced by their culture's norms and mores, sexual orientation, and the issues of social control, such as age of consent laws. In the novel, Sayuri joins the parties to entertain the guest. She hopes that one of the guests is the chairman. She hopes the chairman still remembers the moment they create before. Sayuri is excited about meeting the chairman again. She tries to find out as much as possible the information about him.

"I recognized the Chairman the moment I saw you again, at the sumo tournament. To tell the truth, I am amazed the chairman remembered me because I always remembered you."

Sayuri says to the Chairman that she has a big hope to meet again the chairman. She wants the Chairman to remember all about her. Unfortunately, the chairman has the same expectation as Sayuri does. He also hopes that Sayuri then will be as his geisha for his life. He always admires sayuri. Adolescent sexuality refers to sexual feelings, behavior, and development in adolescents and is a stage of human sexuality. Sexuality is often a vital aspect of teenagers' lives.

"I took the Chairman's hand, fearing that I would never be able to live without him when he died and left me."

Sayuri's feeling for the chairman grows stronger that in the future she will spend much time with him, enjoy studying about the future that no one disturbs them. Sayuri finally reveals her love to the chairman, which she has been harboring for over fifteen years. The chairman is respectful to Sayuri because her services make him pleased and happy. Finally, Sayuri finds peace and contentment sharing her life with the chairman. As adolescents move into adulthood, self-regulatory skills of Sayuri improve and peer conformity declines. General skill in making independent decisions and resisting peer influence increases steadily across the adolescent years of Sayuri. So, the late adolescent becomes cognitively and socially to make independent decisions. In *Memoirs of a Geisha*, the adolescence of Sayuri has many problems since she was child until teenage.

**The Influences of Peers towards Sayuri’s Adolescence**

The peer influence the effects held mainly for those adolescents who had at least some prior experiences with the offense for younger adolescents, and for adolescents who are placed slightly older peers. It is instigated by puberty and perhaps other biologically-based and evolutionarily-based motivation for affiliation with a peer group and with romantic partners, the early adolescent heightens attention and source of influence to the peer group. Peer groups are an important influence throughout one’s life, but they are more critical during the developmental years of childhood and adolescence. In *Memoirs of a Geisha*, Sayuri has three peers who are influenced into her adolescence. They are Mameha, Hatsumomo, and Pumpkin. They are very important in Sayuri’s adolescence. Not all the peers give the good influences for her, but there are peers who make her feel miserable in her life. The influences of peers towards Sayuri in the novel *Memoirs of a Geisha* are seeing in two aspects. They are the relationship between them and the interaction between Sayuri and her peers in geisha house.
By early adolescence, the child’s growing independence affords access to peers over which the parent has less control. In the novel *Memoirs of a Geisha*, Sayuri grows from nine years old until seventeen in geisha house with her peers. Her parents were dead and her sister was lost since they are sold by her father.

Hence, the writer will analyze the relationships and the interaction between peers and Sayuri with their character one by one.

*The Relationship between Sayuri and Peers*

Building up the relationship in the society is not easy, so we need to understand the character or the attitude of oneself in different situation. Peers informally instruct the adolescent on how to talk, how to dress, how to interact with others. In geisha culture, the relationship between them is equivalent the relationship between a mentor and an apprentice. Generally, the relationship between geishas depends on how a geisha deals with others in their environment. In the novel, Sayuri has a good relation with peers but also has the bad relation with her peers.

Peer acceptance represents social status or popularity within a large group, whereas friendships represent relationships based on mutual respect, appreciation, and liking. Early adolescence is a time characterized by friendships that share more common feelings and are more supportive than when children are younger. The quality of the relationships between adolescents and their peers, as well as the type of peers they associate with, play important roles in aiding or impeding their current and future functioning. Because relationships begin to be based on emotional connectivity, it is common for adolescents to feel betrayed when their peers reject them. And there is the added component of disillusionment, adolescents realize that certain previously believed ideas do not hold true.

In this part, the writer will describe about the relationship between Sayuri and her peers in the novel.

*Sayuri and Mameha*

Mameha is one the most successful geisha in Japan. She is more influential in Sayuri’s adolescence. She takes in interest in Sayuri, who consequently becomes her apprentice. Although Mameha is not as devastatingly beautiful as Hatsumomo, her inner beauty outshines Hatsumomo any day. She is kind, wise, worldly, and is ultimate more successful than Hatsumomo because she has a funds. The primary objective of Mameha is to make Sayuri the most successful geisha in Gion, while removing Hatsumomo from her tyrannical position of power.

*“Now, Sayuri, stumbling along in life as a poor way to proceed. You must learn how to find the time and place for things. A mouse who wishes to fool the cat doesn’t simply scamper out of its hole when it feels the slightest urge. Don’t you know how to check your almanac?”*

The quotation above shows that Mameha is given the motivation to Sayuri about the finer life and living of a geisha and to against Hatsumomo also ignore all about Hatsumomo behavior towards her. Mameha informs Sayuri that she has very strict rules as an older sister that must be followed at all costs. If Sayuri is disobedient or lazy or fails to follow the rules of Mameha in anyway, then Mameha will cease being her older sister and Sayuri will have to fend for herself. Mameha explains that she has been an older sister to apprentice geisha before and has dismissed geisha who have not lived up to her expectations. Mameha ensures that Sayuri is will take care of and continually teaches her the finds nuances of being a geisha. There were difficult times when the geishas did not have enough to
live properly. Their funds and resources were incredibly low. Before be a geisha, Sayuri has named Chiyo. After taken under the win of famous geisha, Mameha, Chiyo name is changed to be Sayuri. Chiyo becomes an apprentice geisha and takes on the new name of Sayuri. Mameha, brings her to several parties around Gion so that she could meet and increase her popularity. In fact, woman always wants to be pretty, elegant, and perfect. They will do all the things that make them interesting. And every stage of the start children, adolescence and maturity of character is beautiful. In each stage there is a difference from how to talk, dress, dress up and behave. But in essence, all women want to be perceived as an ideal woman. A geisha will do anything to looks beautiful. Geisha it just like white canvas, because they was somebody else when they are be a geisha in the night. They have a different character roles when meet their guest. That ways geisha use makeup to make a new characteristic. Beside, makeup is the soul of women. They always use it and never forgot, because makeup can make their imperfect face and covered it when they use makeup. Mameha understands that while beauty may be the ladder that a geisha climbs to success, a geisha cannot maintain success without a firm foundation built in character and kindness because beauty does not last, she knows that is important to be kind and generous to those around her and she knows how to gain and keep a donation (to protect her financial interests).

**Sayuri and Hatsumomo**

Hatsumomo is the antagonist of the novel. Upon Sayuri arrive in Kyoto, she is the only working geisha in the Nitta okiya, which makes her the only of okiya source of income. She is also the most prominent and renowned geisha in the Gion district. Hatsumomo is beautiful but she is cruel, and shortly after Sayuri arrives at the okiya, Hatsumomo makes it her primary objective in like to destroy her and tells to mother that Chiyo is a robber. She manipulates Sayuri into destroying an expensive kimono of a rival geisha, blackmailing her into committing the crime by bribing her with the information about where is Satsu the sister of Sayuri.

“Oh, mother,” Hatsumomo said. “On my way back to the okiya this evening, I thought I saw little chiyo at the end of the alleyway talking to a man. I didn’t think anything of it, because I know it couldn’t be her. She isn’t supposed to be out of the okiya at all. But when I went up to my room, I found my jewelry boy in disarray, and rushed back down just in time to chiyo, handing something over to the men. She tried to run away, but I caught her!”

Hatsumomo tried to manipulate Sayuri to mother who owner the geisha house. Hasumomo hides money in her kimono, angered by what she did. Then, she grabs head of Sayuri and lies to mother by telling her that Sayuri stole her emerald brooch with the intent of selling it to a businessman. In fact, Sayuri meets Hatsumomo with her boyfriend in the room of Hatsumomo. Hatsumomo was afraid if chiyo report about her boyfriend to mother, finally she talk in lie about Sayuri to mother. Step by step Hatsumomo makes Sayuri miserable. Their relationship was broke when mother adopted Sayuri as the daughter of Nita Okiya. Hatsumomo betrays Sayuri. Under her disrespect, Mameha insist that she must create a plan to keep Hatsumomo out forever lest the career of Sayuri ultimately die.

**Sayuri and Pumpkin**

In okiya Sayuri has a best girl friend called Pumpkin. Pumpkin is a girl about the age of Sayuri who is already at the okiya when Sayuri arrives. She is a hard worker but struggles to master the skills necessary to become a geisha. Before they become apprentice geisha, Sayuri and Pumpkin are one small step up from the maids, when they are not in school, they are assigned with chores to help maintain the household. Sayuri and Pumpkin are friends before Pumpkin becomes Hatsumomo her
apprentice geisha. They become close friends, but Hatsumomo keeps them apart, in order to make the life of Sayuri at the okiya miserable.

"Why, look, its Mameha's little sister to- be!" I might have called you "little miss stupid" Hatsumomo said."Sayuri doesn't want your help. Went she wants help with her samisen, she will go to her teacher. Is that heading of yours just a big, hollow gourd?"

Hatsumomo doesn't want Pumpkin and Sayuri to talk to each other. Sayuri and Pumpkin miss each other, but after mother adopted Sayuri as her daughter of the okiya, Pumpkin turns against Sayuri because she herself had been hoping to gain that title. The rivalry forces them to go their separate ways. Pumpkin wins the promise from Mother to become the daughter of the Okiya but loses it when Mother finds it more advantageous to make Sayuri their adopted daughter. Sayuri is selected over Pumpkin as the daughter of the Okiya, earning the name Nitta Sayuri, and causing Pumpkin to despair. In first Mother wants adopted Pumpkin as her daughter, but she changes her decision to adopt Sayuri as her daughter.

"No, you'd never do anything like that, would you? Not the perfect Miss Nitta Sayuri! I suppose it doesn't matter that you took my place as the daughter of the Okiya? Do you remembered that Sayuri? After I'd gone out of my way to help you with that Doctor whatever his name was. After I'd risked making Hatsumomo furious at me for helping you! Then you turned it all around and stole what was mine. I've been wondering all these month just why you brought me into this little gathering with the Minister. I am sorry it wasn't so easy for you to take advantage of me this time."

Pumpkin is angry when she knows Sayuri is being the daughter of Granny Mother in Okiya’s house. Sayuri is chosen to be the adopted daughter of the Nita house because Pumpkin is not successful to be a geisha. Pumpkin hates Sayuri because she wants to be a daughter of Nita house. She makes some plans for Sayuri to take revenge. One day, Sayuri asks to Pumpkin to help her entertain a man called the Minister Sato Noritaka with her and Mameha in order to help Nobu and the chairman with their business. Pumpkin agreed to help Sayuri. They went to Amami for a party. The most fun thing about it was Pumpkin got revenge on Sayuri. Sayuri asks Pumpkin to bring Nobu to where she would be sleeping with the Minister so he would see her. But Pumpkin decided to bring the chairman instead. Sayuri does not realize the anger that Pumpkin has towards her until Pumpkin deliberately brings the wrong man to see Sayuri in a compromising situation. She also realized that Pumpkin betrayed her and make revenge to her. She tells that Sayuri really liked the chairman, but she knows that Nobu really liked Sayuri. Pumpkin also knew that Nobu said that if she over slept with the minister that it would be unforgivable to him and he would not like her anymore.

**The Interaction between Sayuri and Peers**

Social interactions outside the family may be more likely to advance moral development because by avoiding the inevitable power differences between parents and children, they more readily may promote the reciprocal and mutual interactions involved in morally principled thinking. The writer also employs the interaction between peers to find out the influences of peers towards the adolescence of Sayuri. In interaction with peers, Sayuri has some problems. In adolescence, there are strategic interactions. People act a certain way to achieve a specific goal. There are clues and techniques that are used in order to send signals. During interaction, one person pretends to be moral, while acting dishonestly, and the other parties involved assume that the dishonest person is actually being honest. Very often, adolescents are involved in such behavior. When they are the victims of this strategic behavior, they often learn valuable lessons but can get very hurt in the process. It is not uncommon
for adolescents to use their positions in relationships to gain something they want and then leave the other person in the dust, once they achieve what they want. Once this happens, they learn to be cautious and less trusting of others but the lessons that they learn can help them throughout the rest of their lives.

In this discussion, the writer analyzes the interaction between Sayuri and Mameha, Sayuri and Hatsumomo, and the last, Sayuri and pumpkin. In their interaction, Sayuri finds herself at the top, middle, and bottom position in Okiya house. A peer's interaction is able to develop the deference, respect, and understanding of status of Sayuri. By this discussion, the writer also describes the personality and character of Sayuri and her peers.

**Sayuri and Mameha**

Sayuri is loyal to Mameha because she has won her trust with the genuine generosity. She has shown her in taking her on as an apprentice and through her training that follows. Mameha treats Sayuri with undeniable kindness, and her worldly wisdom and sense of propriety are evidenced through their interactions. Through Mameha Sayuri learns the rigorous art of the geisha such as dance and music, wearing kimono, elaborate make-up and hair, pouring sake to reveal just a touch of inner wrist, competing with a jealous rival and the money that goes with it.

> “You are very expensive commodity, little girl. I underestimated you, I am lucky nothing has happened. But you may very sure I'm going to watch you more closely in the future. You and I will perform a ceremony next week. After that you'll be my sister just as if you'd been born to me.” Mameha said.

The quotation above is the conversation between Mameha and Sayuri who talk about the adopted daughter by Mameha toward Sayuri. Mameha makes Sayuri be a beautiful geisha. She also has a good personality. As the sister of being the apprentice geisha, they have taught her younger sister everything about the geisha life. Not only in how the way of improve the skilled in traditional instruments, also kimono, behaviors, and the society around her.

**Sayuri and Hatsumomo**

Hatsumomo is the only resident geisha of the Nitta Okiya upon the arrival of Sayuri. An exceptionally attractive geisha, Hatsumomo survives on her looks. The separation led to Sayuri in the geisha household which known as Okiya. This is turning point in her life. In the Okiya, she learns about what a geisha is. She slogs in the house; works endlessly gets beaten up and is treated badly by Hatsumomo another geisha of the house. Sayuri was hated by Hatsumomo because she was the beautiful eyes and even be a successful geisha later in the Okiya house. This statement is supported by the quotation below.

> “Why, I thought my eyes had fooled me.” he said. “You should have told me sooner what a pretty girl you brought with you. Her eyes… they’re the color of a mirror!”

A mirror?” Hatsumomo said. “A mirror has no color, Awaji-san”.

The quotation above is in chapter five. It is the conversation between Hatsumomo and Awaji-san the registry office in Gion where she is registered Sayuri as a geisha. The registry office is surprised with the beauty of Sayuri. That is not pleased Hatsumomo and disagrees with him. From that, Hatsumomo makes the life of Sayuri miserable, and accuses her of several crimes that she didn’t commit. Hatsumomo felt Sayuri is danger for her in okiya. Having a beautiful eyes, Sayuri, will be a famous geisha than her. Step by step Hatsumomo makes an affair being bullied and being sabotage.
Sayuri. Her beauty cannot hide the cruelty and hatred that exist in her. When she first notices her, she is astounded by her beauty, but soon after she sees her true character. She bosses everyone in the okiya around, and finds the girl to be a potential rival.

“I haven’t tried to make your life miserable yet. But if you ever mention that a man came here, or even that stopped it in before the end of the evening that will change”.

The statement above is the conversation between Hatsumomo and Sayuri. Hatsumomo seeks to destroy Sayuri’s career, but ends up destroying her own when, in a jealous, she bites one of her clients. With the natural beauty and rare blue grey eyes of Sayuri, she is a threat to the older status of geisha, since it would put mother in excellent position to throw her out. As a result, throughout plot, Hatsumomo makes several attempts to get Sayuri either restricted from being a geisha, or banned from Gion all together.

“Really, Mr. Director,” Hatsumomo said. “The girl was only a novice. It’s not as if the driver got to see anything. I mean, can you imagine looking at the private parts of the girl across the table?” “Probably she’s no different from a baby!” and of course, you don’t have any hair”.

The quotation above shows that Hatsumomo tries to imply that Sayuri is immature and has no hair. She is too ridicules to Sayuri in the party. Hatsumomo is ridicules to Sayuri’s newcomer status and tells inappropriate story about a newcomer geisha that makes the men laughs and leads to the topic of pubic hair. Her daily habit is changed when she becomes a well-known geisha in the city.

**Sayuri and Pumpkin**

Pumpkin is a girl about Sayuri’s age who is already at the Okiya when Sayuri arrives. She is a hard worker, but struggles to master the skills necessary to become geisha. Sayuri and Pumpkin are friends until Pumpkin becomes the apprentice geisha by Hatsumomo. Before they are separated by Hatsumomo, they are together to start going to geisha school. But in the school Sayuri is more clever than Pumpkin. They are also share together about their problems in their life. The first day when they went to school Sayuri talk to Pumpkin about running away.

“Why you don’t run away to Sapporo again? When I find my sister you can come with us we’ll run way together”. Sayuri said.

The quotation above is that Sayuri invites Pumpkin to run away together to somewhere with Satsu. But Pumpkin cannot back home because her father is dead. Pumpkin also thinks if she leaves Okiya, she will mess up her chances to become a geisha like Hatsumomo is.

“May I permitted to introduce Chiyo to you, teacher,” Pumpkin said. “And ask your indulgence in strutting her, because she is a girl of very little talent.”

Based on the quotation above, Pumpkin tries to introduce Sayuri to the teacher in their school where they are learning all about geisha. Pumpkin is suggesting the teacher to accept Sayuri being student in her school. She tells that to all people in the class that Sayuri has multi talent. Pumpkin makes Sayuri to more deference by the other in their school and respect towards Sayuri.

“That an old woman is so cruel,” she said. “Make sure you put your hands in a dish of salt after she makes you rubber neck.”

The quotation above is the conversation between Pumpkin and Sayuri. Pumpkin says to Sayuri about the cruelness of granny mother. Pumpkin gives the advice to Sayuri to careful with the granny mother. Considering that Sayuri and Pumpkin were the same age and in the same peculiar position in the life. They always mutually assist and impressing upon to each other.
“Be careful not to step on the other shoes when you climb.” Pumpkin said. Even though there were only a few pairs. “If you step on them and one of the girls sees you do it, you will get a scolding so bad your ears will blister.”

Pumpkin gives the advice to Sayuri to keep always herself in school and Okiya house. She says that Sayuri must be careful in doing something because if she makes one mistakes she will get the punishment of mother, the owner of geisha house. Based on the discussion above, Sayuri is sold to geisha house in order to get the better life because her family was poor and cannot give her the better life as the other young women. We watch as a nine-year-old girl, Chiyo, loses all she holds dear. After her mother dies, her father sells her and her sister into slavery. Chiyo ends up in a geisha house in a city drastically different from her fishing village and is thrust into a life she doesn't understand or appreciate until she tries to run away. It seems her chance of becoming a geisha is ruined but unexpectedly her fortunes turn around. During adolescence she faces some problems in her life. She loses her family and has other problems with her peers in geisha house. Sayuri not only has bad relationships with her peers but she also has the good relationship with the other geisha in Okiya. Her life is full of conflict neither from her family or her peers in geisha house. She gets her personality when she met the chairman who gives her the amazing moment and be the apprentice geisha by Mameha. Mameha teach her how to build up her personality and identity in Gion by being her perfect geisha. In Memoirs of a Geisha there are peers who make her life be miserable but she always against the attitude of peers towards her. She felt miserable in her life before she is a famous geisha. Her miserable is influenced by Hatsumomo. Hatsumomo makes her life in the bottom position in Okiya house. She makes several rebellions when she is in okiya house. Her peers teach her about how to be a perfect geisha. She must intelligent and clever in entertain the guest. The life of Sayuri slowly runs but sure better than before, because she had many fans who always waiting for her performance. It is because of her peers makes her get the beautiful life. Not only the citizens, but also some important people in the city sacrifice and spend a lot of money to enjoy her performance. Through her peers, she learns about the hard of life.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis, the influences of peers towards Sayuri’s adolescence in Memoirs of a Geisha occur when she has big problems in her life. She loses her family and is sold to renowned Geisha and be a maid before she becomes the apprentice geisha. In the novel, there are three aspects in getting personality by Sayuri. The first is the search for identity. She meets the generous chairman who prompts her to take a new perspective which concentrates on the future rather than the past. The second is adolescent rebellion, and the last is adolescent sexuality. The writer also finds about the influence of peers towards Sayuri’s based on two aspects. They are the relationship between peers and the interaction between peers. The peers in the novel are very important to develop the behavior of Sayuri. Sayuri is a strong woman and be a successful geisha. Through her peers, Sayuri learns about having hard life, struggles of life, and never to give up with her destiny. Human as society creature cannot live without any help from other person. It is that Mameha teaches Sayuri. Respect is one of the ways to show this feeling. Mameha as the famous geisha gives how to show her respect, not only geisha or Shikomi as the young geisha, but also to everyone who meets her. It is to teach to Sayuri to respect all human kind even sometime we do not know him well.

REFERENCES


