



RAPE TRAUMA SYNDROME REPRESENTATION AS SEEN IN *THE WAY I USED TO BE* NOVEL BY AMBER SMITH

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Abstract

This research focuses on the discussion of the Rape Trauma Syndrome (RTS) representation in the novel entitled *The Way I Used to Be* that was written by Amber Smith. The synopsis of the novel told about the suffering of the main character, fourteen year's old Eden, who changed after her older brother's best friend raped her one night on the Christmas break. By looking at the synopsis of the novel, the writer aims to see the way the novel represented the existence of RTS through its main character, Eden, who at that time experienced sexual assault. To conduct the research, the writer uses a descriptive qualitative methods to describe and explain the issue of RTS inside the novel. Therefore, to support the analysis and explanation, the writer uses the theory of psychological approach as well as the Rape Trauma Syndrome (RTS) theory that explains the signs and phases of RTS. By that, the writer is able to see, reveal, and explain the way the novel represented the existence of the RTS through the main character. After doing the analysis, the writer found that Eden in the novel, suffered from RTS due to her trauma of rape. It was because Edy was seen fulfilled all of the symptoms of RTS. She also fulfilled all the phases of RTS which are acute phase, outward adjustment phase, and resolution phase. It was all seen through her behavior and attitudes throughout the novel.

Keywords: *Main character, psychological approach, rape trauma syndrome, the way I used to be*

INTRODUCTION

Literature is a written work that plays a role as a reflection of life (Karnataka, 2019) As the reflection of life, literature provides values that may guide people and raise the awareness among society (Karnataka, 2019). Thus, the conclusion can be drawn that literature is able to portray the real issues that happen among society. In this research the writer has chosen one of the forms of literature, which is novel, to be discussed further. Novel is chosen because according to Aliyev, novel has exceeded word count and provides a significant structural-level difference compared to other literature (Aliyev, 2021). There is no limitation of word counts in novel, it can be as long as possible, and it allows novel to provide complexity of the character and the story better (Dharlie & Samanik, 2021). In addition, novel reflects the picture of real characters, characters that depart from social reality and can convey dialogues and conversation that can stir and move the hearts of the readers (Amelia & Diantika, 2017). Therefore, the writer believes that novel can explore and portray the issue better with its length and complexity.

To analyze the issue inside the novel, the writer has chosen one of the psychological issues, namely Rape Trauma Syndrome (RTS). Rape trauma syndrome is a term that is used to refer to the trauma that was caused by the bad experience of being raped or sexually assaulted. Trauma itself is defined as an injury, such as a wound, to living tissue of human that is caused by an extrinsic agent (Gerber, 2019). However, the wound or injury is located in the psychology of human not physical. Even though it happens in the psychological of human, trauma can cause a disordered physic or behavioral state that is resulting from severe mental or emotional stress that are caused by the trauma itself (Gerber & Gerber, 2019). Meanwhile, Burgess and Homstrom stated that rape trauma syndrome occurs when the tragedy of rape happened (Burgess & Holmstrom, 1974). Rape trauma syndrome is the extension of trauma, when the trauma happens to a more specific case or tragedy, which is rape.

To analyze the existence of rape trauma syndrome in a novel, the researcher has chosen one of the novels to be analyzed. The novel entitled *The Way I Used to Be* by Amber Smith is chosen to be the object of this analysis. *The*

Way I Used to Be is a 278 pages novel that was published on March 22, 2016 by Margaret McElderry. *The Way I Used To Be* is a courageous telling of a young girl's struggles to deal with her rape. The synopsis of the novel told about the suffering of the main character, fourteen years old Eden, who changed after her older brother's best friend raped her one night on the Christmas break.

By using that novel as the object of analysis, this research aims to see the way *The Way I Used to Be* novel represented Rape Trauma Syndrome (RTS) through its main character, Eden or Edy. It is expected that this research can make the society have better awareness about the rape trauma syndrome issue and will stop the victim-blaming culture.

Psychological approach is used as the fundamental and first theory of this research as this research focuses on revealing psychological issue, which is RTS. The approach of psychology is seen as the most suitable approach for this research as it allows the researcher to see the problem in literary work by using psychological lens. It is in line with the purpose of psychological approach that is to analyze the psychological aspects in a literary work (Semi, 2013). Psychological approach allows the writer to see the psychological aspects or issues in a character in a work (Semi, 2013). Considering that, the researcher used the psychological approach. Here, the researcher used humanistic perspective as the psychological approach of this research. Humanistic psychology refers to the psychological perspective that emphasizes the study of the whole person (McLeod, 2013). The theory of humanistic psychology believed that what happen to an individual is connected to his/her inner feelings and self-image. Therefore, the researcher decided to use this aspect as the fundamental approach.

Additionally, the writer also used Rape Trauma Syndrome theory. According to Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, victims of sexual assault may experience one, some, or all of RTS symptoms, and they may experience them for months or years after the rape or assault. The term Rape Trauma Syndrome was first used by a psychiatric nurse named Burgess and a sociologist named Holmstrom. It was introduced as a response for the rape survivors in 1974 (Burgess & Holmstrom, 1974). Clegg, C., McCoy, K., & Fremouw, W. (2009) describes three major phases of Rape Trauma Syndrome in which the victims of rape endure after the sexual assault. By using the RTS theory arranged by Clegg, C., McCoy, K., & Fremouw, W., the writer founded her research on analyzing Eden McCrorey's RTS by finding the evidence of phases and symptoms exhibited by the protagonist. The three phases are; 1) acute phase; 2) outward adjustment phase; 3) resolution phase. The explanation is written further below.

1. Acute Phase

The acute phase is believed happened as soon after the victim of the sexual assault got the sexual assault. Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw (2009) agreed that the victim of sexual assault can undergo this phase for several days or even months. During the acute phase, the victim can show several reactions, which usually follow similar patterns, which are: 1) expressed; 2) controlled; 3) shocked disbelief.

2. Outward Adjustment Phase

This phase refers to the repression or outward stage, where the victim can show denial, suppression, and/or rationalization that replace the shock (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009). In this phase, the sufferer of rape trauma syndrome is believed to continue to be involved to what appears to be his/her normal life (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009). This phase includes several signs and behaviors, which are: 1) severe mood-swing; 2) sense of helplessness; 3) persistent fear or phobia; 4) rage; 5) flashback and difficulty concentrating (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009).

3. Resolution Phase

During this last stage, the syndrome is characterized by the victim's approach towards the assault, in which he or she is no longer focusing on the traumatic event. The victim can charge with the task of making sense of the rape as well as regaining a sense of control over their lives (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009). While he or she may continually remember, and never completely overlook the assault; the suffering and harmful effects will decrease over time.

METHOD

As this research focuses on revealing the rape trauma syndrome in a novel, the descriptive qualitative method is used as the research method. By using qualitative method, the researcher can describe and explain the issue non-numerically (Rido, 2020). It is because descriptive qualitative focuses on non-numeric data, different

with quantitative that focuses on numerical data (Adepati & Samanik, 2018). Descriptive qualitative method is used because it allows the researcher to analyze the non-numerical data (Rido, 2015). Additionally, by using the descriptive qualitative method, the researcher can focus on the character in literary work (Fithratullah & Ngestirosa, 2018). It is because the method is usually used to find the best answer for a question then present the result descriptively (Sartika & Pranoto, 2021). Descriptive qualitative method is a method that can be used to expand the “what” and “how” question (Mitchell & Jolley, 2010). In other words, the method is useful to reveal certain phenomenon deeply (Afif & Amelia, 2021). William in 2007 also believed that the qualitative method is an approach that is used in textual analysis research and involves discovery that enables the researcher to develop in detail (Williams, 2007). It also makes it possible for the writer to focus on the issue seen through the character as the method allows the writer to focus on the content of analysis (Tirtaningtias & Setiawan, 2021). Thus, the researcher uses the descriptive qualitative method. The data of this research will be in the form of words, phrases, sentences, quotations, and statements. Books, book chapters, essays, interviews, talks, newspaper headlines and articles, are included as texts and can be analyzed using descriptive method (Kiranamita & Samanik, 2021). Moreover, library research method is also used to collect the written data which includes sourcebooks and articles. The library research method allows the researcher to gain supporting insight related to the topic from other source of books and articles (Farras & Nurmaily, 2020).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the writer presented the portrayal of rape trauma syndrome as found in a novel entitled *The Way I Used to Be* by Amber Smith. To present the analysis, the writer combined the theories and research methodology. The writer used the theory of rape trauma syndrome as guidelines for the writer.

Acute Phase

The first phase of the rape trauma syndrome, according to Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw (2009) is the acute phase. The acute-phase refers to the coordinated series of events that occur nonspecifically in response to the trauma, or in this case rape trauma syndrome (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009). During the acute phase, the victim can show several reactions, which usually follow similar patterns, which are: 1) expressed; 2) controlled; 3) shocked disbelief.

Expressed

The first pattern that the victim of rape might experience in the acute phase is expressed. It refers to the pattern phase where the victim or survivor of sexual assault emotionally tries to open up herself (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009). Open up emotionally can be defined as a phase where the survivor showed her emotion and feelings after the rape tragedy that is happened. Hence, the survivor might show extreme anger, hysteria, or may display radicalism in the form of hysterical crying or anxiety attacks (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009).

“I start running after I round the corner, my head pounding harder and faster with each footfall, my whole body in this cold sweat. By the time I make it home I’m so nauseous I’m actually crying. I run into the bathroom and am instantly on the floor kneeling in front of the toilet, gasping for air.” (*The Way I Used to Be*, p.31, 2016)

One day, when the school had started, Edy went with her best friend since childhood, namely Mara. Edy and Mara planned to go to Mara’s house. However, to get to Mara’s house, both of them needed to past Kevin’s house. Knowing that fact, Edy got really scared until she could feel her legs got weakened every time they got closer. She really hoped that Kevin was not home. Luckily, Kevin was not home, but Kevin’s younger sister, Amanda, was home. Because Amanda was in front of the house, Mara decided to greet her and talk to Amanda, when suddenly Edy felt not great and left both of them in hurry. When Edy tried to go home by running, she felt her head pounding and her body in a cold sweat. She felt nauseous and cried hardly. When she got home, she ran into the bathroom in hurry and knelled in front of the toilet, tried to gasp for air. The writer interpreted the datum above as the traumatic reaction of Edy, who got really trauma due to the rape done by Kevin. The reaction of Edy showed that she could finally show her feeling and emotion, at least to herself, because at that time no one knew about the rape. It could be seen that Edy felt nauseous and cried hardly until she needed to gasp for air to breath. From Edy’s reaction, Edy showed that she showed her emotion about the rape. The way she cried hardly, until she needed to try to breath, and felt nauseous is in line with the acute phase where the survivor might open up to her/his feelings by crying hardly (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009). Considering that, the writer believed that the datum above show that Edy underwent the acute phase, which was expressed, because she express her feelings by crying.

Controlled

The second pattern of acute phase of the victim of rape is controlled. This pattern refers to the time when the victim or survivor appears to be without a sign of noticeable emotion and acted as if nothing happened and everything is fine and under control (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009). However, what the survivor really felt is unknown, what is clear is only the survivor seemed calm may be deceptive towards other people eyes (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009).

"I don't know how long I lay there afterward. Try to ignore all the things that didn't feel right, all the things that felt like I would never feel right again. No, can't cry. Because there's nothing to cry about. Because it was just a dream, a bad dream, a nightmare. Not real, not real, not real." (The Way I Used to Be, p.2, 2016)

In the data above, it could be seen that the novel described that Edy tried to ignore all the wrong things. She thought that she did not have to cry, because what she felt was only a nightmare and not a reality. In fact, what she felt was true event and not a dream at all. However, Edy tried to deny it by keep telling herself that it was not right and just a nightmare. The writer interpreted what Edy did there as a reaction of Edy who tried to avoid and deny the reality. She wanted to be under control and did not want to break down because of what she experienced. The data above showed that Edy tried to be fine and fully under control. What she did was in line with the theory of controlled pattern in the acute phase, explained by Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw (2009). In the pattern of controlled, the survivor will show as if everything is fine and nothing happens (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009). The theory is in line with the fact that in the data above Edy showed that she tried to think that she was fine and nothing bad happened to her in reality.

Shocked Disbelief

The pattern of the acute phase suffered by the survivor of rape or sexual assault is shocked disbelief. Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw (2009) defined the third pattern as a time when the survivor of rape reacts with a strong sense of disorientation. The survivor may experience a disruption in concentrating, which can heavily affect the decision-making, or unable to manage simple, daily tasks (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009).

"I don't know, as I force my eyes open, that the lies are already in motion. I try to swallow. But my throat's raw. Feels like strep, I tell myself. I must be sick, that's all. Must have a fever. I'm delirious" (The Way I Used to Be, p.3, 2016)

The data above happened at the beginning of the novel, when Edy was laying down on her bed, when suddenly, beyond her control, she remembered the rape tragedy again. She could feel and see the tragedy clearly, even though she tried to forget it. She tried to close her eyes and open her eyes, yet with both ways, she still could the bad memory of the rape she suffered. From the data above, it could be seen that Edy tried to open her eyes because the motion and memory became worse when she closed her eyes. However, though she had opened her eyes, she could still feel the reaction due to her brain which remembered the rape traumatic tragedy. However, Edy tried to ignore it because of her disbelief towards what had happened to her. Though she could feel her throat was not feeling well and she felt like she was sick and had fever, she denied those feelings as a reaction of her trauma. Instead, she told herself that she just sick and had a fever, and it did not have any relation with her traumatic experience. The writer then interpreted the data above as a proof that Edy showed shocked disbelief. Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw (2009) believed that the rape survivor can show disorientation, where the truth that the sufferer feels is different from the real truth, which causes confusion as well as illusions. The way Edy tried to deny what had happened to her, and the way she told herself that the traumatic reaction is only ordinary sickness, proved that Edy showed the pattern of shocked disbelief caused by her rape traumatic experience.

Outward Adjustment Phase

The second phase of rape trauma syndrome is the outward adjustment phase. This phase refers to the repression or outward stage, where the victim can show denial, suppression, and/or rationalization that replace the shock (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009). In this phase, the sufferer of rape trauma syndrome is believed to continue to be involved to what appears to be his/her normal life (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009). This phase includes several signs, which are: 1) severe mood-swing; 2) sense of helplessness; 3) persistent fear; 4) rage; 5) flashback and difficulty concentrating (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009).

Mood-Swing

The first sign or behavior of the sufferer of rape in the second phase is the mood-swing. Mood-swing refers to the changing of mood of the sufferer (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009).

“I do need them!” I can feel the tears beginning to simmer behind my eyes. “And just so you know,” I continue, my voice falling in on itself, “I’m not wearing my glasses anymore even if you don’t get me contacts!” I throw my glasses onto the table and then I stomp off to my room.” (The Way I Used to Be, p.53, 2016)

The data above happened when Edy had a conversation with her parents. At that time, Edy started her morning nice and well, when suddenly she saw Minnie asked for a contact to her parents, instead of glasses. It made Edy only asked for a contact because she did not want to look like she was in a band, while actually she really was. Edy suddenly wanted to change her appearance, and one of the way to do that was by using contact lens instead of glasses. Therefore, she tried to ask her parents about that, but the parents did not fulfil what Edy wanted. In that datum, it could be seen that Edy suddenly got mad and cried, even though it was a simple problem and Edy was usually a tough girl. Yet, at that time she cried, angry, and snapped at her friends just because her friends did not buy her contact lens yet. Edy even threw her glasses and stomped her feet to the room, which was impolite. Considering that, the writer believed that the data above could be interpreted as a situation where Edy had a mood-swing, because she suddenly got mad over small things. Mood-swing refers to the changing of mood of the sufferer (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009). In the data above, it could be seen that Edy had a change in her mood a second after her parents rejected her wants.

Sense of Helplessness

The second sign or behavior of rape trauma syndrome is the sufferer may suffer the sense of helplessness (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009). In this sign, the individual may feel weak, helplessness, and cannot be helped at the others.

“It’s...personal, I guess” But the truth is that it’s humiliating. It’s too humiliating to be in lunch anymore, to have to hide and still get food thrown at you anyway, and not be able to do anything about it, and your friends are too afraid to stand up for you, or themselves. Especially when you just got attacked in your own house-in your own bed-and you cant even stand up for yourself there, either, the one place you’re supposed to be safe” (The Way I Used to Be, p.18, 2016)

At that time, it was shown that Edy tried hard to let go the incident and went back to the way she used to be. However, during the lunch time at the cafeteria, Edy suddenly felt bad. She felt like the pace at the cafeteria was too fast due to the food thrown, who actually had often happened during lunch time, and it made her feel bad, until she wanted to hide and go. The feeling Edy felt at that time, somehow, stressed her out. There was nothing wrong with not eating at the cafeteria, yet Edy felt like it was too humiliating to be in the middle of the food thrown. It was triggered by the tragedy where the food thrown to the cloth of Edy. With that little trigger, Edy suddenly felt the sense of helplessness, as she thought that she could not even stand up for herself. It made her felt helpless because she thought that she could not stand up for herself during the rape incident, stand up for herself during the food thrown, and even stand up for herself. It is explained that in the second sign, the individual may feel weak, helplessness, and cannot be helped at the others (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009). It was in line with the data above, because there Edy said that she could not be helped, as she could not helped her friend and herself. The way Edy said *“you cant even stand up for yourself there”* showed that Edy felt the sense of helplessness where she could not stand up for herself, because she had a thought that she could not help herself when the rape happened. Hence, the writer saw the data above as a proof of Edy’s sense of helplessness.

Persistent Fear

The third behavior that is done by the sufferer of rape in the second phase is the persistent fear. Simply, the individual or sufferer of rape may have a persistent or constant fear about anything (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009).

“Maybe this is my chance. Would Kevin really kill me if I told-could he really kill me? He could. He made sure I knew he could if he wanted to. But he’s not here right now. Caelin is here. To protect me, to be on my side”(The Way I Used to Be, p.11, 2016)

The datum above happened not so long after the rape tragedy suffered by Edy. After the incident, Edy acted weird and her brother aware about that. When Edy's brother asked why Edy acted weird, Edy for a second thought that maybe that was the right time for her to confront and tell him about the rape. However, when she thought about that, she emerged the fear, as could be seen in the data above. Edy feared that Kevin would kill her if he knew that she told her brother that Kevin was a rapist and he raped Edy. Edy was not sure whether or not her brother would stand for her and whether or not Kevin would actually kill her if she told her brother, however, the fear of Edy made her believe that she should not tell her brother because Kevin would really kill her if she did. The thought and behavior of Edy above showed that Edy emerged fear after the rape incident she suffered. It is in line with the theory of rape trauma syndrome that explained the individual or sufferer of rape may have a persistent or constant fear about anything (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009). Therefore, the data above showed the fear of Edy.

Rage

The next sign of outward adjustment phase is rage. The victim of rape in this phase may show instability in the emotion that can be seen through depression or rage (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009). The rage usually seen through the violent, uncontrollable anger, or the instability of the emotion of the individual (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009).

"I stomp away, my feet like bricks. I slam my bedroom door again as hard as I can, then press my ear against it. My chest heaves with frantic breaths as I listen"(*The Way I Used to Be*, p.54, 2016)

At that time Edy asked for a contact lens. However, her parents thought that she did not need it as she could still use glasses. Her parents gave a reasonable reason to not buy her contact lens, and it was said with a very nice and kind way. However, Edy suddenly got very mad because she thought that her parents did not care about her. She yelled and screamed at her parents, then she stomped away. She went away to her bedroom and slammed the door as hard as she could. Through the action done by Edy, it could be seen that Edy showed her instability of emotion by showing her anger and rage, even to her parents. It is in line with the sign of outward adjustment phase where the rage and depression usually seen through the violent, uncontrollable anger, or the instability of the emotion of the individual (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009).

Flashback and Concentrate Difficulties

The victim of rape also may have flashback to the traumatic event as it traumatizing (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009). The individual in this phase may have a flashback to the tragedy of rape, and it happened in the mind (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009).

"Amanda,hi," I finally say, taken back by her presence-by the hot sinking feeling her presence leaves in my stomach-by all the memories of the past, of growing up together, of her and Kevin, and Kevin, and Kevin, and Kevin. Stop, I command my brain.Icant quite stop, but it slows down just enough for me to try to smile anyway. Because all of that is in the past, I remind myself. It's not something I need to think about ever again. And Amanda has nothing to do with it anyway"(*The Way I Used to Be*, p.47, 2016)

The data above happened when Edy passed by the Kevin's house with Mara, her best friend. Kevin was not home at that time, but his sister, Amanda, was home. Amanda was actually quite close to Mara and Edy as they lived near. When they passed by Kevin's house, Amanda was in front of the house, so both Edy and Mara greeted Amanda. When Edy greeted Amanda suddenly she had a flashback to what Kevin did, even though she just saw Amanda and not Kevin. In the data above, it could be seen that Edy suddenly had a flashback and she could feel it in her stomach. She remembered the bad memories of the past when Kevin touched her and raped her. Edy tried to not think about it as Amanda had nothing to do with it, but she could not as the memories and flashback came suddenly without she could not control it. The individual in this phase may have a flashback to the tragedy of rape, and it happened in the mind (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009). So, the data above showed that Edy had a flashback about the rape.

Resolution Phase

The last stage of the rape trauma syndrome is the resolution phase. This phase refers to the unaroused state, where the situation goes back to normal (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009). In this phase, the victim or

sufferer is no longer focusing on the traumatic event (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009). Generally, the victims will begin to accept the rape as part of their life and choose to move on (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009).

"I've been with fifteen different guys, sometimes it seems like too many, other times it seems like not nearly enough. But each one takes me just a little farther away. I'm so far gone now, sometimes I feel like maybe it's almost enough. Because honestly, there isn't the slightest trace left of that frizzy haired, freckle faced, scared silent little girl. And her big secret is really not such a huge deal anymore. It was all so long ago now, it practically never even happened" (*The Way I Used to Be*, p.175, 2016)

In the data above, Edy told that she finally could had a relationship with another people, even though she previously had a trauma with boys because she was being raped by Kevin. Moreover, the data above showed that Edy finally realized that she was worthy and enough, she had a thought that she could go far from the trauma and lived her live just like she used to. The writer interpreted the data above as a proof that Edy had moved on by having a relationship with boys and realizing her worth. In the resolution phase, the individual will begin to accept the rape as a part of their life and move on (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009). The individual also may try the best to live their life again (Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw, 2009). It is in line with the data above where Edy tried to move on by living her life like she used to.

CONCLUSION

After conducting the analysis by using the theory of Rape Trauma Syndrome, the writer could present the data of the analysis. The research was conducted by using the descriptive qualitative method, which was beneficial for the writer to present the data descriptively. The Rape Trauma Syndrome (RTS) that is used in this research came from Clegg, McCoy, & Fremouw in 2009. In the theory, it was explained that RTS presents as a form of post-traumatic stress disorder that occurs after the sexual assault. There are three phases of RTS according to the theory, which are acute phase, outward adjustment phase, and resolution phase. Each syndrome had its own signs that can be used to analyze the existence of RTS in the literary work.

By using those three phases of RTS, the writer analyzed the object of the analysis, which is a novel by Amber Smith entitled *The Way I Used to Be*. To be more specific, the writer analyze the existence of RTS in the main character of the novel, who was Edy. After doing the analysis, the writer found that Edy in the novel, suffered from RTS due to her trauma of rape. It was because Edy fulfilled all of the symptoms of RTS. Through the analysis, it was seen that Edy fulfilled the expressed, controlled, and shocked-disbelief signs in the first phase, which is acute phase. She also shown that she had mood-swing, sense of helplessness, persistent fear, depression or rage, and flashback and concentrate difficulties, which proved that she also experienced outward adjustment phase. Furthermore, at the end of the novel, Edy also showed that she was in the resolution phase, as she seemed as if her life was normal. It was because Edy tried to accept what had happened and live her life normally. Therefore, from the research findings, Edy suffered from RTS because of the rape incident she got from her brother's friend. Through this analysis, the writer hopes that it can raise the awareness and knowledge about RTS and sexual assault. Also, it is expected that this research can be the insight for other future researchers who want to conduct deeper analysis about RTS.

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