

Research Article

The Role of Mother in Education as Reflected Iwan Setyawan's Novel *9 Summers 10 Autumns*

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Abstract: This study investigates the educational role of a mother in Iwan Setyawan's Novel *9 Summers 10 Autumns*. The research addresses three main problems: (1) How does the mother prioritized family needs in *9 Summers 10 Autumns* novel a translated by Maggie Tiojakin (2) How does the role of mother to create children's educations in *9 Summers 10 Autumns* novel a translated by Maggie Tiojakin. Using a qualitative approach, data were collected through documentation. The data collection process in this research involves identified, classified, analyzed, and organized systematically to support the completion of the research. The data were analyzed through identification, classification, description, and interpretation. The findings reveal that she manages household needs with precision, provides warmth and security, and remains strong despite her husband's imprisonment. Her modest home, though small, becomes a place filled with love, simplicity, and gratitude. Her sacrifices selling belongings and borrowing money reflect her unwavering dedication to her family's survival and harmony. Her commitment to education is shown through her tireless support, never letting her children work, and always encouraging them to study and succeed. Her love and sacrifices result in her children graduating from university and eventually improving the family's quality of life. The novel illustrates the power of maternal love, perseverance, and the profound impact of a mother's role in shaping her children's future.

Keywords: Mother's role, education, Iwan Setyawan's novel, *9 Summers 10 Autumns*

1. Introduction

Literature is a form of artistic expression created by humans through imaginative and experiential reflection, conveyed in spoken or written language. According to Nurhayati (2022) [1] literature is a creative activity that results in artistic works such as novels, poems, dramas, and short stories. Among the many types of literary works, the writer is particularly interested in analyzing the novel *9 Summers 10 Autumns* by Iwan Setyawan, which tells the true story of a journey from Batu, the City of Apples, to New York, the Big Apple. This novel is chosen due to its rich narrative structure, complex characters, and profound depiction of family roles and life struggles

The novel portrays a mother named Ngatinah as the central figure who plays a crucial role in shaping the future of her children. Despite not completing elementary school due to illness, she becomes the person who understands and fulfills her family's needs best. She knows exactly how much food is needed each day, when to sell household items, or even borrow money to support her children's education. In a small and modest home, she creates a nurturing environment where love, security, and encouragement grow. Through her example, she teaches simplicity, health awareness, and resilience without ever demanding help from her children.[2]

Her sacrifices are evident in the way she ensures all five of her children receive a proper education. From enrolling them in universities to supporting them emotionally, her efforts lead each child toward academic success. She even sells valuable possessions, including a minibus, to cover tuition fees. The house they live in is small, with minimal amenities, but it becomes a meaningful space filled with hope, discipline, and strong values. Through her determination and love, she successfully raises her children to become educated and independent individuals.[3]

The role of a mother in education for the family is fundamental, as she serves as the first teacher and moral guide for her children.[4] Through her daily actions, discipline, and values, a mother shapes her children's character, mindset, and motivation to learn. In *9 Summers 10*

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Autumns, the mother not only supports her children's formal education but also teaches them life lessons such as gratitude, perseverance, and humility. Her consistent presence and guidance instill a sense of responsibility and resilience in her children, proving that education in the family begins not in the classroom, but at home nurtured by the love, sacrifices, and wisdom of a mother.

This study is supported by role theory as presented by Bradley Wright and Erving Goffman, which defines a role as a set of expectations associated with a social position. In this context, the mother plays multiple roles provider, caregiver, educator, and moral guide. Her consistent behavior and values shape the family's routine and identity. Therefore, *9 Summers 10 Autumns* is worth analyzing not only for its compelling narrative but also for the educational and moral lessons it conveys. It serves as a motivational and inspirational novel that resonates with many readers and has earned its status as a best-seller.

2. Preliminaries or Related Work or Literature Review

2.1. Objective theory

It is important to understand the content of the story and how it relates to the values being examined. For this research, the writer applies *Objective Theory* as the theoretical framework. Objective theory views a literary work as an autonomous entity, independent from the author and the surrounding social or cultural context. According to Virginia, objective orientation considers a work of art in isolation from external factors, analyzing it as a self-contained whole made up of internally related elements.[5] This theory encourages a focus on the text itself, rather than on the biography of the author or historical background.

Objective theory is helpful in conducting a deep and focused analysis, especially when examining the intrinsic elements of literature. These intrinsic elements include theme, characterization, plot, setting, and message. In this study, the writer uses objective theory to explore how the role of a mother in the novel *9 Summers 10 Autumns* contributes to her children's education. By using this approach, the analysis concentrates on the internal aspects of the text, particularly the psychological and emotional dimensions portrayed through the mother's character, as part of a psychoanalytic perspective.[6]

2.2 Maslow's hierarchy of needs

The theory of human basic needs is essential in understanding literary phenomena, as it enables researchers to interpret characters' motivations and behaviors more clearly. As stated by Nyoman Kuta Rana, theory functions as a tool that guides research direction, while concrete analysis is carried out through specific methods and techniques. In this study, Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs serves as the main framework. Maslow identifies five levels of human needs: physiological, safety, love and belonging, self-esteem, and self-actualization. Each level builds upon the previous one, starting from basic survival needs and progressing toward the realization of one's full potential. These needs are not only biological but also psychological and emotional, and they significantly influence human actions, priorities, and decisions in life.[7]

Applying Maslow's theory in this research helps the writer analyze the mother figure in *9 Summers 10 Autumns* in terms of her role in fulfilling both her own and her family's basic needs. Despite living in poverty, the mother ensures her children's physiological and safety needs by providing food, shelter, and comfort are met. She fosters a sense of belonging and love through emotional support and care. Furthermore, her sacrifices contribute to her children's self-esteem and ultimately enable them to achieve self-actualization through education and personal success. This theory provides valuable insight into how fundamental needs influence behavior and development, and how the mother in the novel embodies these needs through her unwavering dedication to her family.

2.3 Role theory

Role theory, commonly used in sociology and social psychology, explains how individuals behave according to socially defined roles such as mother, teacher, or caregiver. In the novel *9 Summers 10 Autumns*, the mother takes on multiple roles beyond that of a traditional parent she is also a teacher, protector, nurturer, and moral guide. This reflects Sheila Kippley's theory, which emphasizes how mothers must provide both physical and emotional needs: from nutrition and health to attention, spiritual training, and individual encouragement for each child. In the novel, the mother consistently prioritizes her children's education, despite economic hardship, and ensures that each child receives both the practical and emotional support necessary for academic success. Through her patient and sacrificial nature, the mother demonstrates a deeply rooted understanding of her role in shaping the future of her children.[8]

Other theorists further reinforce the centrality of the mother's role. Sarrit Michal Kovacs highlights the importance of positive mother-child interactions, where emotional support, responsiveness, and psychological connection help foster children's development. Likewise, Preselfannie W. McDaniels and Pujosuwarno explain that mothers often bear the primary responsibility for nurturing their children's moral character, educational development, and emotional resilience. In *9 Summers 10 Autumns*, these concepts are evident in the way the mother responds to adversity ensuring her children's well-being, teaching life values, and encouraging self-discipline. Her efforts align with Mizan's view of motherhood as the foundation of a child's life, where purity, sacrifice, and devotion yield long-term personal growth and success. Ultimately, the educational role of the mother in the novel mirrors these theoretical insights, showing that a mother's guidance is central to forming not only a child's academic path but also their personal identity and values.

3. Proposed Method

This research used descriptive qualitative method, suitable for analyzing the literary aspects of Iwan Setyawan's novel *9 Summers 10 Autumns*, translated by Maggie Tiojakin. Qualitative research emphasizes natural settings, focusing on textual data such as words, expressions, and behavior rather than numbers. Data were collected through library research, including the novel itself as the primary data source, and various books, journals, articles, and online materials as secondary data.[9] The steps of data collection involved reading and rereading the novel, highlighting relevant quotations, classifying key statements, and identifying thematic content related to the mother's role in fulfilling family needs and supporting her children's education. The analysis followed a systematic approach involving identification, classification, description, and interpretation using several theoretical frameworks: objective theory, Maslow's hierarchy of needs and role theory. These frameworks helped the writer explore the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the novel and ultimately draw conclusions about the educational and emotional contributions of the mother character to her family's success.

4. Results and Discussion

The novel *9 Summers 10 Autumns* by Iwan Setyawan, translated by Maggie Tiojakin, tells a touching story about a mother's important role in taking care of her family. She always tried to meet the family's basic needs and helped her children to get a good education. Even though they lived in a small and simple house, the mother worked hard and never gave up. She made sure her children had food, felt safe, and were loved. This idea follows Maslow's theory, which explains that people need food, safety, love, and confidence to live well. The mother also helped her children with school, showing her love and care. This fits with Sheila Kippley's theory, which says a mother is not only someone who takes care of the home but also teaches, guides, and supports her children. This study looks at how the mother's role in the novel helps build a strong and successful family.

4.1. The Mother Prioritized Family Needs in *9 Summers 10 Autumns* Novel

Physiological needs

The mother plays a very important role in fulfilling her family's basic needs. She works hard every day to make sure her children have food to eat, a clean and warm home, and the support they need to stay healthy and go to school. Even though her family is poor, she never gives up. She sells what she has, borrows from others, and sacrifices her own comfort so her children can live better. She teaches them about responsibility, love, and how to enjoy simple things in life. Her strength, patience, and kindness help her children grow into good people. Her small house becomes a place full of care, learning, and warm memories. This shows that a mother's role is not just to take care of the home, but to shape the future of her children with love and wisdom.

Security needs

The mother gives her children a strong sense of safety and comfort, even though they live in a small and simple house. When her son feels cold and sick at night, she gives him hot coffee and care, because she cannot afford medicine. Her love becomes the medicine that helps him feel better. She even builds a bamboo bed for him with her husband's help, so he can sleep more comfortably. Although they do not have much, her care and attention make her children feel safe, warm, and loved. She always checks the kitchen door and makes sure everything is okay before bed. Her protection gives her children peace, especially in the cold nights of Batu. This shows that security is not only about money or big houses, but about love, care, and presence of a mother.

Social-Love and Belongingness

the mother creates a strong sense of love and belonging in her family, even though they live in a small and simple house. In their modest living room, her children gather every night to laugh, tell stories, argue, and comfort each other. They learn to read, write, and grow together with love and support from one another. Although their home is not as big or fancy as their neighbors', the warmth of their bond makes it special. The mother teaches them that true happiness comes not from luxury, but from having a family who cares, listens, and stands together in both good and hard times.

Ego Self Esteem

the mother helps her children develop self-esteem, patience, and strength through simple yet meaningful experiences in their modest home. Even though their house is small, it is full of love and togetherness. She teaches her children to be grateful, disciplined, and responsible, such as turning off lights to save electricity and respecting others even in discomfort. Through small sacrifices and everyday lessons, her children learn the value of simplicity and grow stronger. This environment shapes their sense of personal worth and helps them begin to dream, not with luxury, but with the love and strength they receive from their mother.

Self Actualization-Fulfillment

self-actualization needs are shown through the mother's efforts to help her children reach a better life, even with many limitations. Although her children did not have toys, bicycles, or extra lessons like other kids, their mother always tried to fulfill their dreams, especially during special moments like Eid. She worked hard to buy them clothes, even if it meant borrowing money. Her love and dedication helped her children grow into people who could dream and aim high. Based on Maslow's theory, all five levels of human needs appear in this story, but the most dominant is physiological needs such as food, shelter, and basic care because the story mostly shows how the mother struggles to meet these basic needs every day for her family.

4.2 The Role Of Mother to Create Children's Educations in 9 Summers 10 Autumns Novel a Translated by Maggie Tiojakin

Protecting

The mother plays a big role in protecting and supporting her children's education. Even though her family lived in poverty, she never gave up on helping her children succeed. When her daughter Isa got sick, she sold her savings and jewelry to pay for the hospital bills. Isa grew up to be a smart and hardworking student, inspiring her younger siblings. Her mother also supported her son's dream to go to college by selling the family's minibus and working hard with her husband to pay the tuition. They even borrowed money and sold family land to keep supporting their children's education. Her sacrifices show how deeply she cared and protected her children's future, even in difficult times.

Giving Attention

The mother shows deep love and care by always giving attention to her children's needs, especially in their education. She never left her son alone in kindergarten because he was scared, and she stayed by his side for two years. She always supported her children's learning by buying textbooks even if it meant pawning her own belongings. She never wanted her children to work, only to focus on their studies and future. When she saw her son doing errands for a neighbor, she was heartbroken and told him to go home. Her wise advice, like "don't be afraid, study hard," gave her children the strength to face life's challenges. Thanks to her attention and support, her children succeeded in school and built better lives for themselves, including her youngest daughter Mira, who became a government worker in Bogor.

Being Proud

The role of the mother in shaping her children's education is shown through her deep pride and unwavering support, especially for her son Iwan Setyawan. Despite facing the trauma of a miscarriage and living in a limited environment where most people worked in low-income jobs, she remained hopeful and proud of every effort her children made. Her pride was not only rooted in achievement but in their determination to strive for a better future, showing how a mother's belief and encouragement can be a strong foundation for a child's educational journey.

Helping Children

The role of the mother in supporting her children's education is clearly shown through her dedication and sacrifices. She understood that each phase of her children's lives required different forms of support, both emotionally and financially. Despite financial limitations, she worked hard to ensure her children could pursue higher education and realize their dreams. Her support not only encouraged her children to succeed academically but also shaped them

into responsible and caring individuals. Through her love, guidance, and willingness to help in times of struggle, the mother became a central figure in building a better future for her family.

Teaching them

The mother plays an important role in educating her children not only through formal learning but also through daily life lessons. She teaches them that life is not always easy and fair, but with hard work, responsibility, and care for others, they can overcome any challenge. Her daughter Inan becomes a role model in the family, showing dedication to school, helping with family problems, and even teaching the value of cleanliness and art. Through these everyday actions, the mother and her daughter show that education is not just found in books, but also in behavior, discipline, and love for the home.

Respecting our Typically

The mother plays a vital role in building her children's education by respecting each child's unique character and journey. She provides love, support, and freedom without forcing responsibility on them, while still guiding them with care. Despite the family's financial and health struggles, her daughter Isa became a strong and persistent figure who not only pursued her own education but also helped her siblings continue theirs. The mother's dedication, hard work, and emotional support from childhood through to college became the foundation of her children's success. Her pride and joy when witnessing her son graduate and start a professional career reflect how her role was essential in shaping their future through love, sacrifice, and constant encouragement.

5. Discussion

In the novel *9 Summers 10 Autumns* translated by Maggie Tiojakin, the mother plays a very important role in meeting the basic needs of her family, especially food, health, and education. Even when the family faced financial problems, the mother always found ways to provide meals, pay for school fees on time, and keep the house clean and safe. She sold household items and borrowed money when her husband was in jail, just to make sure her children could continue living and learning. Her love and sacrifice became the main strength that helped the family survive many hard times.

According to Abraham Maslow's theory, physiological needs like food, sleep, and shelter are the most basic human needs. In this novel, these needs are the most visible. The mother made sure her children ate healthy food, slept in a warm house, and lived in a clean environment. She also created a feeling of safety by giving them warm drinks when they were sick and making sure the house was locked at night. Even without much money, the mother always did her best to protect and care for her children. Her actions gave her children comfort and peace at home.

Although physiological needs are the most dominant, the story also shows other needs like safety, love, respect, and dreams. The children grew up with love and support even without toys, fancy clothes, or private lessons. They spent time reading books, studying together, and helping each other. The mother taught them values like honesty, hard work, and being thankful. She did not just care for their bodies, but also helped shape their minds and hearts. Her role in the family shows how strong and loving a mother can be, guiding her children toward a better future through simple acts of care.

In the novel *9 Summers 10 Autumns*, the mother plays an important role in protecting and supporting her children's education. Even though they lived in a small and simple house, she always made sure her children could go to school. When her daughter Isa got sick, she sold her belongings to pay hospital bills. Isa studied hard and became the top student in her school. Her son, Iwan, also worked very hard and finally studied at the Bogor Institute of Agriculture, even though it was very expensive. To support his studies, the family sold their minibus and worked extra jobs. This shows how the mother and the whole family sacrificed for their children's future.

The mother always gave attention and care to each of her children. When Iwan was in kindergarten, she stayed with him because he was afraid. She always supported her children with books and time, even though they didn't have much. She encouraged her children to study and follow their dreams. Her advice, like "don't be afraid, study hard," gave strength to Iwan when he was far from home. She even got upset when her children tried to help earn money, because she only wanted them to focus on school and be successful.

The mother was very proud of her children, not only when they succeeded, but also when they worked hard. Each child was supported to follow their own path. Isa became a teacher, Inan went to Japan and became a lecturer, Mira became a vet, and Iwan worked at a big company in Jakarta. The mother always taught her children to be honest, clean, strong, and to care for others. Her efforts helped the family grow stronger, even in difficult times. In the end, all her children succeeded in life, and she could be proud and happy.

The mother not only played a central role in her children's physical and educational development but also served as a moral guide and emotional supporter. She always reminded her children of the importance of staying honest, humble, and grateful despite their achievements. Her consistent encouragement helped them stay focused on their studies and shaped them into responsible individuals. By putting education as a top priority and showing resilience in the face of hardship, she became a symbol of strength and dedication.

Her parenting style reflects the value of character education taught through daily life. She taught discipline by example waking up early, keeping the house clean, and sacrificing her own comfort for her children's needs. More than just a provider, she was a role model who instilled a deep sense of purpose, determination, and love for learning. Her role emphasizes that a mother's influence extends far beyond the classroom, building the foundation of lifelong success through care, values, and unwavering support.

6. Conclusions

This study concludes that the mother plays a vital educational role by not only supporting her children's formal schooling but also shaping their values and character. Despite living in poverty, she worked tirelessly to provide for her children's needs, including food, school fees, and a safe home. More than that, she became their first teacher teaching them about honesty, hard work, discipline, and love. Her sacrifices, wise advice, and constant support helped her children achieve their dreams and become successful. This shows that a mother's role in education goes beyond academics; it is about guiding her children toward a better future with strength, love, and moral values.

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