

## ABSTRACT

Cheisa Diamanta Putri, 2025. *“The Essence of Trust in Family as Seen in The Last Thing He Told Me by Laura Dave”*

English Literature Department  
Faculty of Business and Humanities  
University of Technology Yogyakarta  
cheisadiantaputri@gmail.com

This study discusses the importance of trust in stepfamily relationships as depicted in *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave. The aim of the research is to analyze why trust is essential in family bonds and how the main characters in the novel develop trust. This research employs a qualitative descriptive method using M.H. Abrams' objective approach, supported by Patricia Papernow's seven stages of stepfamily development. Data were collected through close reading of the novel, selection of significant scenes and dialogues related to trust, and the use of relevant journals and books. The data were analyzed through interpretation based on these theories, with a focus on character interactions and their emotional development. The findings reveal that trust within a family is built not through words, but through actions and emotional support. The relationship between Hannah and Bailey aligns with Papernow's seven stages: fantasy (expecting an easy relationship), immersion (experiencing emotional tension), awareness (recognizing genuine feelings), mobilization (facing conflicts), action (initiating cooperation), contact (forming emotional closeness), and resolution (establishing a stable bond). This process also reflects aspects of trust involving emotion, behavior, and understanding as outlined in the BDT model. Ultimately, Bailey is able to accept Hannah after they share emotions and togetherness marked by patience and perseverance.

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Keywords: trust, family bonds, aspects of trust, seven stages

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*Penelitian ini membahas pentingnya kepercayaan dalam hubungan keluarga tiri sebagaimana ditunjukkan dalam *The Last Thing He Told Me* karya Laura Dave. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis mengapa kepercayaan dipandang penting dalam ikatan keluarga dan bagaimana tokoh-tokoh utama dalam novel tersebut membangun kepercayaan. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan pendekatan objektif dari M.H. Abrams, yang didukung oleh tujuh tahap perkembangan keluarga tiri menurut Patricia Papernow. Data dikumpulkan melalui pembacaan mendalam terhadap novel, pemilihan adegan dan dialog penting yang berkaitan dengan kepercayaan, dan penggunaan jurnal dan buku yang relevan. Data dianalisis melalui interpretasi berdasarkan teori-teori, dengan fokus pada interaksi antar tokoh dan perkembangan emosionalnya. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kepercayaan dalam keluarga dibangun bukan melalui kata-kata, melainkan melalui tindakan dan dukungan emosional. Hubungan antara Hannah dan Bailey selaras dengan tujuh tahap Papernow: fantasi (harapan akan hubungan yang mudah), keterlibatan (merasakan ketegangan emosional), kesadaran (menyadari perasaan yang nyata), mobilisasi (menghadapi konflik), aksi (memulai kerja sama), kontak (kedekatan emosional mulai terbentuk), dan resolusi (ikatan yang stabil terbentuk). Proses ini juga mencerminkan aspek-aspek kepercayaan berupa emosi, perilaku, dan pengertian sebagaimana dijelaskan dalam model BDT. Pada akhirnya, Bailey bisa menerima Hannah sebagai keluarga setelah bersama-sama mereka berbagi perasaan dan kebersamaan penuh kesabaran dan perjuangan.*

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Kata kunci: kepercayaan, ikatan keluarga, aspek-aspek kepercayaan, tujuh tahap