

**The Triangular Love Representation of Edward Cullen Character in  
*Breaking Dawn Part I* Movie**

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**Abstract**

*Breaking Dawn Part I* is an American romantic movie which shows the love relationship between a human, vampire, and werewolf. This research paper discusses about the character of Edward Cullen on showing his affection toward his beloved one and the kind of love of the main couple of the movie. The purpose of this research paper is to analyze the extrinsic aspect of the movie. I used two methods in analyzing the extrinsic aspect. Qualitative method is used to collect the data of this paper. In analyzing the character of the movie, I used psychological approach. This paper used Triangular Theory of Love by Robert J. Sternberg to analyze the character. Based on the theory, love has three components which are intimacy, passion, and commitment. The finding of this research paper is the type of love of the main couple that is consummate love. The love relationship between Edward and Bella has all the three components of love. It depicts the complete components of love in the movie.

**Keywords:** triangular theory of love, intimacy, passion, commitment.

**I. Introduction**

*Breaking Dawn Part I* is a romance movie from Summit Entertainment based on the four series books by Stephenie Meyer which has the same titled as the original book. The original book consists of four series, but the movie has five series in which the fourth series, *Breaking Dawn*, is split in two parts. *Breaking Dawn* is starred by several famous artists who are Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart, Taylor Lautner, and other famous supporting figures. The movie shows love story between a vampire, Edward Cullen, and a human, Bella Swan, in stage of marriage. After struggling in last three movies, *Twilight*, *New Moon*, and *Eclipse*, the couple finally decides to get married. The first half of *Breaking Dawn* was released on November 18, 2011, while the second half was released on November 16, 2012. The movie is famous for its unusual romantic relationship that happens between human, vampire, and werewolf. Therefore, I would like to elaborate the relationship of the main character.

**Compendium: Journal of Cultural, Literary, and Linguistic Studies**  
**Vol. 1, No. 1, 2017**

Available online at: <http://ejournal2.undip.ac.id/index.php/compendium>

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I decided to analyze further on how the character of Edward Cullen shows his affection toward his lover. It can lead to an idea of the love formula based on Robert Sternberg (1986) theory that is called Triangular Theory of Love. The theory explains the topic of love in an interpersonal relationship. It says that there are three kinds of love that can be found in a relationship. The theory is used to analyze the love side character of Edward Cullen. The discussion of this paper has two sections, they are from extrinsic aspects. The first one explains the character Edward Cullen on showing his love based on the Triangular Theory of Love. Then, type of love of the main couple in the movie.

Related to the topic of this research paper, I found several previous studies. The first one was written by Nadya Astriana Novera (2017) entitled “The Consummate Love of Hazel Grace as Reflected in *The Fault in Our Stars* Movie.” The purpose of this thesis was to analyze the consummate love of Hazel Grace based on Robert J. Sternberg theory. The second thesis was written by Karina Rahma Hadiyanti (2016). The title of her thesis was “The Triangular Love of Main Character in E.L James *Fifty Shades Darker* (2011).” The purpose of this thesis was to prove the existence of three components of love by the main character love relationship. Next was a thesis entitled “The Romance Formula in John Green’s *The Fault in Our Stars*” by Novindia Nurratnasari (2015). The purpose of the third thesis was to analyze the main character relationship. Those three previous studies were analyzed by Robert J. Sternberg theory of love.

This research paper has different object from the previous studies that mentioned before. If the three previous studies used a romantic movie *The Fault in Our Stars* and a phenomenal romance book *Fifty Shades Darker*, this paper uses a popular fantasy romance movie *Breaking Dawn Part I*. I found that the previous studies analyzed both the intrinsic and extrinsic aspect. To make it different from the previous studies, I only discussed the extrinsic aspects. The two extrinsic aspects are analyzed by Sternberg theory. They are triangular love representation of Edward Cullen Character in *Breaking Dawn Part I* Movie and types or Kinds of love of the main character of the movie.

# Compendium: Journal of Cultural, Literary, and Linguistic Studies

## Vol. 1, No. 1, 2017

Available online at: <http://ejournal2.undip.ac.id/index.php/compendium>

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This paper uses Triangular Theory of Love by a Psychologist, Robert J. Sternberg (1986), based on his theory, he splits types of love into three different components: (a) intimacy, is the feeling of closeness, connectedness, and bondedness in relationship; (b) passion, is the urge that leads to romance, physical attraction and sexual relationship; and (c) decision/commitment, is the commitment to maintain the love whether for a long or short term. (1986:119)

The components of love in a relationship and how a couple interact with each other in such relationship can be understood by looking at the components of love that they have. Through that components, love can be divided into eight kinds. The first one is Nonlove. According to Sternberg's theory, nonlove is a kind of relationship that does not have the three components of love. It is simply just interaction between people that do not have romantic feeling inside. The second is liking. If in relationship there is only one component of love that is intimacy, it calls liking. Liking here is not the feeling when one attracted with other, but it means feeling closeness, bondness, and warmth toward someone without feelings the rest two components of love.

The next kind of love is infatuated love. Infatuated love is a feeling which results from the condition of passionate arousal without the two components of love, intimacy and commitment. It can happen suddenly and can clearly be spotted when someone experiencing it. For example of this condition is love at first sight. The other kind is Empty love. This kind of love is only have one component of love that is commitment. It can be found at the beginning or at the end of relationship. It can happen at the end of relationship as a result of long-term relationship. For instance, When a couple have married for years but they are losing both of intimacy and passion in their relationship as time goes on. The same as when it happens at the beginning of relationship. It can be seen in a condition, such as arranged marriages. The couple get married first without having intimacy and passion components of love toward each other.

The fifth is romantic love. This kinds of love is the combination between intimacy and passion. It means that it has two components of love. Romantic lovers are not only attracted physically, but also emotionally. Then the other kind of love is

companionate love. In this type, it has two components of love that are intimacy and commitment. To make it clear, condition between committed friendship can be said as the example of it. Companionate love has a commitment inside, such in a committed friendship that can last forever. The last two kinds of love based on Sternberg theory are Fatuous love and Consummate love. The fatuous love is a kind of love that has two components of love. They are passion and commitment components. While the Consummate love is the most complete one among the other kinds of love. This type of love has the three components of love without one component left behind.

## **II. Research Method**

In addition to the previous studies, this paper's method has the same method as in a thesis entitled "Proses Terbentuknya Intimate Relationship dan Upaya Mengelola Konflik dalam Hubungan Pacaran." It was written by Ajeng Novita Tunjungsari (2017). She used qualitative method to get the data for the thesis. The same as this paper, I used qualitative method. Qualitative method is a type of research method of social science which collects and works with non-numerical data. It includes observation, content analysis both visual and textual material, and oral history. In this paper, I used content analysis. Content analysis is used by interpreting scenes, dialogues, texts, and images from cultural products, such as documents, film, music, art, and others. After downloading the movie from an internet site, I observed the character of the movie.

To analyze the data, This paper uses psychological approach. The same as in the previous study entitled "The Differences Temperament between Batman and Ironman in *Batman Begins* and *Ironman* Movie" that written by Danang Edmirendy Surya Permana (2014). This thesis used psychology approach to analyze the personality of both main characters. I used psychological approach in order to analyze the relationship between the main couple character of the movie. According to Silverman (1971) "Psychology is the science that seeks to measure, explain, and sometimes change the behavior of man and other animals." I will focus on the character of the main couple of *Breaking Dawn Part I* movie which is part of psychology.

### **III. Result and Discussion**

#### **A. The Triangular Love Representation of Edward Cullen Character in *Breaking Dawn Part I* Movie**

Based on the theory which is mentioned before, Robert J. Sternberg states that love has three components, that are intimacy, passion, and commitment. In this part, I will analyze Edward Cullen character in *Breaking Dawn Part I* movie based on Sternberg theory. Edward and Bella have experienced intimacy, passion, and commitment in their love relationship.

#### **Intimacy**

According to the theory, the first component in relationship is intimacy. Sternberg states that the intimacy components refers to those feelings a relationship that promote closeness, bondness, and connectedness. On their study, Sternberg and Grajek (1984), they indicated ten feelings to express intimacy. They are (a) desire to promote the welfare of the loved one, (b) experienced happiness with the loved one, (c) high regard for the loved one, (d) being able to count on the loved one in times of need, (e) mutual understanding with the loved one, (f) sharing one's self and one's possession with the loved one, (g) receipt of the emotional support to the loved one, (h) giving of emotional support to the loved one, (i) intimate communication with the loved one, and (j) valuing the loved one in one's life (1986:121). From all ten feelings that express intimacy, four of them are seen in the relationship of the main character *Breaking Dawn Part I* movie.

The first indication on how to express intimacy based on Sternberg that appeared in the movie is experienced happiness with the loved one. There are many sweet moments between the main couple in the movie. One of them is when Edward and Bella enjoying their honeymoon in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. They are staying on Isle Esme, a gorgeous beach house. At the moment, it can be seen from the movie that they are the happiest couple in the world. At very first after arriving to the place, the couple is dancing with the crowd on the street at the town. Then they are moving to the main place, the beach house. After reaching the destination, Edward goes straight to the

**Compendium: Journal of Cultural, Literary, and Linguistic Studies**  
**Vol. 1, No. 1, 2017**

Available online at: <http://ejournal2.undip.ac.id/index.php/compendium>

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beach. Bella follows him after trying to push away her nervousness. “you are beautiful” says Edward before they are kissing under the moonlight. In the next day, they are playing chess and jumping from the top of a waterfall with Bella on his husband’s back. They are swimming on that river after jumping using Edward’s special ability as a vampire, moving fast.

Another indication that refers to intimacy is being able to count on the loved one in times of need. In this movie, Bella is pregnant which is rarely happen due to the human and vampire relationship. Bella is having a hard time because she carries a vampire’s baby. She starts to feel painful condition. She cannot even eat human food. If she does that, she will throw up immediately. Her condition is getting worst day by day. Because she cannot eat human food, it makes her lose her weight and she turns to be awfully skinny. In this condition, Edward who felt guilty because he makes her into that bad is always beside her in every moment. He provides blood for Bella to drink. He consoles her by touching her belly to listen to their baby’s voice. Since he can read people’s mind, he says “he likes the sound of your voice” he also adds “he loves you Bella” after listening to the baby’s mind.

Next indication that express intimacy in the movie is mutual understanding with the loved one. In this case, both Edward and Bella have mutual understanding toward each other. After knowing Bella pregnancy, Edward directly opposes that condition and tries to persuade Bella not to have that baby because it can kill her. Edward does not want living his life without his soulmate. “I cannot live without you” he says when Dr. Carlisle, Edward’s father, gives Bella his advise as a doctor not to have the baby. For him, he can live without the baby, but not without Bella. As we know in the movie, when a human is pregnant with a vampire, they can be killed by their own baby. It is due to the baby eating themselves. They are eating their mother from inside. Eating here means drink their blood till the human dying from that condition. Therefore, there are some cases that a half human-vampire baby are alive. Not only living their life as a normal baby, but aslo they will have a certain ability the same as a vampire which usually have an ability that make them different from others.

While Edward fully opposes Bella's pregnancy, it is different from Bella as a mother. She loves the baby inspite of what kind of creature it is. she willingly risks her life in order to save their baby's life. Edward is already persuaded Bella not to have it, but she remains the same that she will make the baby come to alive. They are arguing for several times. Edward says "you give me no choice." He starts to yell to Bella and saying "you decided on your own, you decided to leave me." He thinks that Bella is full of herself. She does not care about his feeling and all, but it always end up with rejection from Bella for all what he had suggest. Bella also explains that the baby is the part of them. she says "you gonna have part of me." If Edward loses her, he can live with little Bella.

After thinking Bella's condition, Edward apologizes to her for everything he has said. He tries to understand Bella. "I'm sorry i have been so angry" he states. Bella then replies "i would be too." She adds "a marriage" refer to their condition at the moment. "what they say the first year is the hardest" says Edward while smiling. Both of them is trying to understand each other feeling. Edward tries to put his self on her shoes, so does Bella. After confessing each other mistake, they finally back to what they really are. A couple who have each other. Then, instead of worrying each other life, both of them fight to live a happy life without losing anyone.

The last indication of express intimacy that can be seen from *Breaking Dawn Part I* movie is receipt of the emotional support to the loved one. It is related to the previous one, when Edward does not want to lose Bella. He afraid of losing her that much, but Bella always tells that she is ok with that condition. She keeps saying that she is fine after all, eventhough she is not sure about that. She also shows that he does not have to be worried about the worse situation that might happen in the future. She keeps on acting tough in front of Edward in order to convince him that everything is going to be alright.

### **Passion**

Based on Triangular Theory of Love, the second component that can be found in relationship is passion. Sternberg states that this condition will appear after someone

# Compendium: Journal of Cultural, Literary, and Linguistic Studies

## Vol. 1, No. 1, 2017

Available online at: <http://ejournal2.undip.ac.id/index.php/compendium>

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reaches the intimacy stage. The passion component will always have interaction with intimacy. In loving relationship, passion is the form of extended intimacy component. After the intimacy component well developed in a relationship, the passion component is followed immediately. Passion can be seen in a couple, if one of them has physical attraction and sexual consumption toward each other. In the movie, there are a lot of scenes that show Edward physical attraction to Bella and vice versa. The same as sexual consumption, it can also be found between their relationship.

Firstly, the physical attraction can be seen through how Edward looking at Bella lovingly. His gaze on the wedding day after declaring that they will love each other to the eternity shows that. It looks like his eyes speak louder than his words. After several events that happened between them, they finally make it. They finally become each other part that completed their lives. Another scene is when Bella dresses and poses sexily in front of Edward, he stares for a moment and his chuckle can be heard because his dearest one tease him like that.

Next is sexual consumption that exists in the movie. We all know that the most happiest moment between married couple is when they are in their honeymoon. There are a lot of scenes that captured this romantic moment. Kissing can be said as sexual consumption between a couple. In the movie, there are bunch of kissing scenes in their everyday life before or after married. One of them is the night before Edward and Bella declared their promise, when Edward visits Bella's bedroom to persuade her to change her decision about being a vampire in the future. He tells her his dark past and he does not want Bella to be like him. It is all ended with kissing after Bella voices her minds. They are kissing lovingly to show how they are in love and they want to own each other both physically and mentally.

Another form of sexual consumption is sexual activity. Eventhough Bella and Edward are madly in love, they do not make love before married. It is actually because of Edward. He does not want to do it before they are become official couple. It is related with his past. In the movie, Edward describes as a handsome student in the age of seventeen. He will always be seventeen years old guy to forever. His age actually is over than 100 years. He was born on June 20, 1901 and he was dying due to spanish



influenza at the time before his now to be called father Dr. Carlisle changed him into a vampire in order to save his life. Edward keeps his traditional manner that a couple should not make love before married. He also considers that Bella's father will disappoint with her daughter if he knows about that. However, in this movie they are married. So, there are several scenes that show their sexual activity.

### **Commitment**

In his theory, Sternberg states that the third component of love is decision/commitment. There are two aspects in this component. They are a short-term one and a long-term one. The first is the short-term one. The short-term one is the decision that one loves a certain other. While the long-term one is the commitment to maintain that love. These two aspects do not always go together in a love relationship. Some people when they are in a relationship do not admitting that they are truly in love with the other. However, there are also a lot of people who are married because of their love to each other. Marriage is a form of legalization of commitment to love one and another in a long-term. In *Breaking Dawn Part I* movie, the main couple have reached this stage.

As what i have mentioned in previous chapter, in this series, the main couple is married after struggling in the three previous series. The first series, *Twilight*, tells about how they meet and attracts to each other. The second series, *New Moon*, depicts that the couple are truly in love, even they will end up hurting each other if they were separated. The third series, *Eclipse*, shows a clash to protect each other. Even in the third series, for the first time alliance between vampire and werewolf happened. After through hard time, in the fourth series, *Breaking Dawn Part I*, the main couple, Edward Cullen and Bella Swan, decides to get married.

When Edward and Bella decided to get married, it is shown that they committed to their love relationship. Through their relationship, they both can feel happiness in their life, eventhough sometimes they face hard times that threaten their relationship. Actually Edward have declared that he wants to marry Bella in the second movie series. As Bella is desperate to become the same kind of creature as Edward, He promises her

that he will turn her into a vampire in one condition. That condition is a long-term one. He adds it will be last to forever. "Marry me, Bella", he says.

**B. Kinds of Love of Main Couple in *Breaking Dawn Part I* Movie**

In Sternberg theory, it can be described what kind of love a relationship is by looking at the three components of love that exist in it. According to the theory, there are various kinds of love which several consist of one or two components only. There is also a kind of love which have all the three components. The various kinds of it are Nonlove, Liking, Infatuated love, Empty love, Romantic love, Companionate love, Fatuous love, and Consummate love. Kinds of love relationship between Edward and Bella is consummate love. The consummate love is a type of love that has three components of love. As analyzed before, the main couple of the movie has it all. The couple shows intimacy, passion, and commitment components.

**IV. Conclusion**

Every romance movie shows how the character of the main couple showed their love relationship. It could be described as sweet as honey and long last or vice versa. Love can be said as a strong feeling of affection of someone for somebody. Robert J. Sternberg, a psychologist, owns a theory that called Triangular Theory of Love. In his theory, he states that love has three components. Love also can be divided into eight kinds according to how many components of love that exist in a love relationship.

The American romance movie, *Breaking Dawn Part I*, has several scenes that depict about the three components of love by the main couple. After analyzing them, I found that all components of love are experienced by Edward and Bella in their love relationship. They are experienced intimacy component and showed four expresses of intimacy that are experienced happiness with the loved one, being able to count on the loved one in times of need, mutual understanding with the loved one, and receipt of the emotional support to the loved one.

The passion component in their relationship can be seen at several scenes that show physical attraction toward each other. While another indication that shows passion in their love relationship is sexual consumption, such as kissing. Edward and Bella are married in this series. It is shown that they are also experienced the third component of love as well. The couple has a long-term relationship. After proving that Edward and Bella's relationship has the three components of love, the type of their love relationship can be understood. Their love is a consummate love. Consummate love is a kind of love that has the three love components.

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**Compendium: Journal of Cultural, Literary, and Linguistic Studies**  
**Vol. 1, No. 1, 2017**

Available online at: <http://ejournal2.undip.ac.id/index.php/compendium>

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