

ABSTRACT

The researcher frequently observed parents embroiled in a continuous argument regarding the appropriate treatment and interpretation towards child religious freedom, which seemed to be an ongoing and persistent disagreement until nowadays. The matter then inspired the researcher to find out more regarding the religious freedom for children especially in the United States as seen in “*Are You There God? It’s Me, Margaret*” the movie. In relation to the previous statement, this research formulates two objectives: the first is to present how the movie depicts the treatment to children’s freedom of religion, and the second is to discuss how the findings of the first objective contribute to the ongoing polemic and its position within the United States society. The researcher applied the postmodernist approach uses Lyotard's theory which focuses on the diversity experiences and the rejection to grand-narrative as its starting point to unveil the fragmented freedom of religion for children in the United States. The first result shows the presence and the absence of child religious freedom. The second result shows the validity between the two backlashing treatment and interpretation of child religious freedom brought up by the parents. Lastly, the researcher reveals the position of the children religious right within the hierarchy of rights. It shows that the freedom of religion of parents is in a way stronger than the rights of children. Under the powerful parental right, children religious right is put as secondary as long as parents do not break the border upon "the best interest of the children". In short, parents are allowed to impart or not to impart their religious beliefs towards their children.

Keywords: freedom of religion, child rearing, children’s right, parents’ right, postmodernist approach