

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Name for us is something precious that signifies our presence in the world. The moment we born in this world, we will immediately receive our name from our parents. Without a name, it is impossible to live in society because people like giving a name to make sure we can be identified and leaving a mark as someone who lives in society. Name is a unique symbol to make sure that people are being acknowledged in society and every person had a name. However, to know that someone is a relative, the family name is used as the symbol of a family to bring them together. The family name is something we have that linking the family name with a body of "ancestral" holdings that, handed down from generation to generation, signified its identity and continuity (Spafford 2019, 24). This is means, as a member of the family, we need to uphold the family idea and prestige as the legacy from the ancestor of the family. The glory of a family is tied to how we, as the descendant, can continue to bring achievement and prestige to the family. It is possible that in the future when the family was fallen from grace, we would lose the family prestige and reputation which they are no longer seen as something special in society. It is because family names are also synonymous with power and the prestige of the family (Spafford 2019, 26). this means the family member needs to work hard to be successful in life and continue to bring the family name to gain prestige. Because if they are the successful person it means they can lift the family name worthiness in society. That desire or impulse

can be called ambition. Ambition exists in the heart when we have a strong feeling of wanting something. It is normal for a human to covet something as we are a creature that always craving more than what we received, not easily satisfied with what we have in our life, and always has a strong feeling of taking back things we have in the past. Ambitions are considered negative things because in many stories because ambition sometimes relates to the villain of the story. An ambitious person can result in a disaster to themselves and others (Apriliandi 2018, 53). However, ambition can also be a source of purpose in life or motivation to do something. The people that have an ambition could motivate them to move forward and successfully achieve their objective (Barsukova 2014, 95).

In the path of ambition, sometimes people will achieve something called as power and influence. Power can be associated with authority and also physical properties. Therefore, power is where one is possible to control and manage things under his or her command. As argued by Talcott Parson, power is closely associated with authority and its decisions in the institutional aspect (1963, 308). With power, people can gain a certain privilege to do something and authority over someone that makes them special in the society. Power has a sense of relation, and being in power means that one can be a significant influence over others. Steve Lukes states that power can also mean the influence given from a person to another, where the former can affect the thoughts and actions of another person for a specific purpose (2005, 31). In other words, ambition brought us power and influence which have a great impact on family names. With power and influence, people can promote their family names to the others which increases

the respect of others toward the family and also gain the opportunity to be one of higher hierarchy. people who have power and influence gained a special privilege that will help in society, they can take advantage of their power to do something common people cannot do because of their high status. Once people gained both power and influence, it is possible to fulfill their ambition.

In the process to fulfill ambition, people must do hard work to make sure they can fulfill their ambition and never give up. Hardworking is the path chosen to fulfill something with training both body and mind as well as to gather experiences to carefully thread the way to the ambition, and it is mean that an effort is necessary when there is an ambition that wants to achieve. People need to work hard from the bottom to get close to the goal. Just like what the great inventor Thomas Edison once said "Genius is 1 Percent Inspiration and 99 Percent Perspiration" (Newton 1989, 24). It can be argued that to achieve something, what people need to do is hard work rather than planning and imagination. In other word, people must talk less and do more which mean they must put the attentions on the action. People need to prove what they thinking or planning because what people plan sometimes is not quite the same as what will happen next. A theory often differs from how it is applied and sometimes people cannot apply the theory perfectly because of the lack of experience to do it. Furthermore, the effort is important, for the hard work is very useful as it is shown how determined people to be closer to their goal and enable them to progress as far as they can and benefit their life. Hard work also polishes the heart and conscience to make sure people are on the right path toward their goal. One of the goals that can be achieved by

training the body is to obtain power. This happened to Linley in the novel *Coiling Dragon ±Book 1 of Coiling Dragon Saga* whose ambitions are to restore his family name and reputation and also help his father by becoming an expert. To achieve this, he did the training, hard work, and sacrifice more than anyone can imagine reaching his ambition.

Coiling Dragon ±Book 1 of Coiling Dragon Saga is the first of eight series part Coiling Dragon Saga which is written by Wo Chi Xi Hong Shi. He is a Chinese writer and recognized by a lot of people in china as a great novelist due to his quality of works. One of the remarkable achievements he successfully got in the literature circle is that on November 26, 2012, he ranked 2nd on China's Rich Internet Authors Ranking with an annual income of 21 million Yuan in royalties, which drew the attention of everyone. The success of the author brings the novel to be translated into English to be enjoyed by the western reader. The writer looks into *Book 1 of the Coiling Dragon Saga* because in this book we see the growth of the main character from a child to adult. His ambition was passed to him from his father and his willingness to fulfill this ambition makes the writer wanted to analyze the ambition and his effort to achieve his goal. The novel story is revolved around the character Linley, a descendant of the Baruch family which is a small noble in the city. He has a big ambition to restore his family reputation in the past as one of the famous powerhouses in the continent with many strong people born in his family. Realizing how weak he was, he determined to regain the power of his ancestor and helping his father to make Baruch family name in glory again.

To analyze this novel it is necessary to refer to the previous studies that are conducted related to this research. The first study by Natasya Intan Pramanda and Nurilah Ariani revealed how New Criticism is used as an approach to studying a novel, both of them highlights the theory of formal elements with great details. By using the New Criticism, the researchers can find the theme of the stories which help them understand more about the stories. The theme is used as the main idea of the story which contains the essence of the story we read. The next is the studies using new criticism conducted by Remi Apriliandi and Thomas Sayers Ellis, focused on how ambition described in the literary work and how to define the ambitions with the approach they used. In Apriliandi paper, the ambition is achieved by using strategies that resulted in the disaster because the strategies used as the shortcut to quickly reach the character ambition, on the contrary, the main character that is analyzed in this research used effort to build his power to achieve his ambition.

In this study, the writer uses the New Criticism approach that focuses on the text itself because the approach is suitable to analyze the novel as the basic source. In America, New Criticism is an approach that is applied by using close reading (Tyson 2015). There are formal elements that should be noticed, such as images, symbols, metaphors, rhyme, meter, point of view, setting, characterization, and plot. Those parts that the writer mentioned are the parts of the literary works. There is also a product called linguistic devices, such as paradox, irony, ambiguity, and tension. The writer chooses *Coiling Dragon* is because it is an interesting novel that shows how a child grew to be a man through many trials and

trouble, trying to reach his ambition. The writer analyzed the plot, characterization, and point of view of the text that can help to discover how Linley's hard work and effort to achieve his ambition. Other than that, by analyzing the characterization, the writer also discovered more about the character of the text. As an addition, the writer explained the formal elements of the literary works, which focuses on the plot, characterization, and the point of view that build the theme of the text.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the writer proposed two questions to be analyzed in this study:

1. How is Linley's effort to reach his ambition portrayed in the novel?
2. How do characterization, plot, and symbolism in the story support the theme that effort is necessary for someone to fulfill his ambition?

1.3 Objective of the Study

In conducting the research, there is an objective expected by the writer to achieve. The objectives of the study will be planned to answer every question that has already been mentioned in the statement of the problem. Therefore, this research intends to:

1. To explain Linley's efforts to achieve his ambition
2. To analyze how the formal elements reveal the theme of the story.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Through the story of Linley's hard work and efforts to fulfill his ambition, we can see the importance of this study is trying to make the readers understand how hard work benefits our life and the importance of it to achieve your goal. To achieve something, people must do it with hard work and efforts so they realize how the real world is like. If someone did not want to do it and instead achieve it by shortcut or cheating, their achievement cannot be counted as theirs and they will be blinded and lost because they failed to realize the importance of hard work and efforts to our life. The object of the study is also more closely related to our culture, which is Asian culture, that the reader can relate more than western literature.

Also by analyzing this novel, we can see contemporary literature nowadays. The current trend of translation novels began to reach the global consumers, it is because people enjoy translation and adaptations to learn about the foreign culture they did not know, literary texts have often reached beyond obvious linguistic and political boundaries (Gupta 2012, 13). With reading translation work, we can learn so much regarding the style of writing and culture inside their literary circle. The differences need to be seen as the subject of learning, especially to the literary students.

Moreover, this study is written as a contribution to Airlangga University, especially in the English Department, Faculty of Humanities, so this study will inspire the new generation or other students. Within examining the issue of Linley's hard work and efforts, the writer hopes that the reader will get the value

of the story as a social human being. Furthermore, people also need to strive forward and never be satisfied with what they have and want to improve more with hard work and efforts. Also, the students who will use the New Criticism theory in Literature major will get more knowledge from what is shared here.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

Ambition:	A strong desire to achieve something (Barsukova 2014, 95)
Family Glory:	The power and honor that a family have (Spafford 2019, 23)
Family Name:	The part of a person's name that indicates to what family he or she belongs (Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, s.v. n.d.)
Power:	The ability to influence the behavior of others or events; a position of authority. (Lukes 2005, 30)