

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the study

Human lives are inseparable from conflicts; either it is a simple conflict or the most complicated one. There are also many kinds of conflicts that humans can experience in their life such as physical conflicts and mental conflicts between the close relations or maybe with some other people. The mental conflicts usually bring the larger damage than the physical ones; the past experience seems to become the biggest contributor in the matter of mental conflicts (Brooks).

In the world of literature, also known this kind of conflicts, and usually this factor cannot be separated in the making of literary works, because every points and elements in the literary works such as plot, theme, characters, and settings are needed in the study of formal elements of literature, commonly interconnected each other. Usually conflicts inside the story or another literary works can be found in the plot of the story.

The plot which Aristotle termed the Mythos in a dramatic or narrative work is constituted by its events and actions, as these are rendered and ordered toward achieving particular artistic and emotional effects. This description is quite deceptive in its simplicity explanation, because the actions (including verbal discourse as well as physical actions) are performed by particular characters in a

work, and are the means by which they exhibit their moral and dispositional qualities (Abrams 265). Plot also influences the characterization in the story.

There are two types of characters that determine the way the plot is enacted by the story writer they are the protagonist character and the antagonist character. The protagonist usually considered as the hero of the story and the antagonist usually called as the bad character in the story. The interaction between the protagonist character and the antagonist character creates the conflict in the story (Abrams 266).

In order to avoid the mistake in the different definition between character and characterization, first we should know what the exact definition about the two of them is. According to *The Britannica Guide To The Literary Elements, PROSE, Literary Terms And Concept* by Kathleen Kuiper, Character of the story in literary works are the most important element that helping to formulate the story and make the plot flow (Kuiper 6), so that means Character is a basic elements that should exist before forming a story if there is no character, then the main form of literary works cannot be determined. While characterization According to Abrams is the standard that sets the reader on a particular character in the novel, or if we can say in the other words this is a kind of labeling a particular character in a novel by the reader. The judging aspect involving the aspects of the personality, possessing particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it—the dialogue—and from what they do—the action (Abrams 42).

Many novelists use the complexity of the mindset of the characters in the novel as the main “spice” to attract the reader to read their novel, follow the story until the conclusion of the story has revealed, or even to buy another serials of it if there is another version of novel available. There are also two another distinctive features in the definitions of character, first that is a flat character which is built around “a single idea or quality” and is presented without much individualizing detail, and therefore can be described adequately in a single phrase or sentence. Around character is complex in temperament and motivation and is represented with subtle particularity; such a character therefore is as difficult to describe with any adequacy as a person in real life, and like real persons, is capable of surprising us (Abrams 43).

In this novel by J.M Coetzee Entitled *In the Heart of the Country* also have the same character as mentioned earlier that is the protagonist and the antagonist. At the first try of reading and comprehending the story, the plot, and also the characterization of each character that emerge in this novel the writer already determined that the protagonist character is Magda, a 50 year old spinster live in the middle of somewhere in Colonized South Africa named Armeode with her father, lonely without somebody loves her because of her father’s repressing behavior on her since her mother’s death when she was a child. The writer can found out that she is some kind of lonely and depressed girl after her mother passed away because of the description features of the characters, the dialogue, and the tonality of every speech she made in the novel. The novel’s author made her father as the antagonist one because of his conservative behavior against his

own daughter. But as the writer mention it earlier about the unique value of the complexity in the mindset of a particular character, apparently this novel also uses that kind of value in shaping the Magda's characters.

In the end of the story Magda kills her own father and keeps his skeletons remaining inside the house, dressed it like a living human, tells story while she sat beside her father skeletons as if her father still listens to her saying everyday and every night. Judging from this brief description, Magda can be categorized as the type of the round character, she can surprise the reader with her action at the climax of this novel, because at the beginning of the novel she is not so much attractive in the way of the author describe her daily activity, utterances, and the tonality of her speech, is so low and flat.

There are two major reason and arguments why the writer decides to choose this topic. First, the writer thinks that the author of this novel is quite famous with his works; it can be proven by his record in receiving awards for some works in his biography. His first book, *Dusklands*, was published in South Africa in 1974. *In the Heart of the Country* (1977) won South Africa's then principal literary award, the CNA Prize, and was published in Britain and the USA. *Waiting for the Barbarians* (1980) received international notice. His reputation was confirmed by *Life & Times of Michael K* (1983), which won Britain's Booker Prize. It was followed by *Foe* (1986), *Age of Iron* (1990), *The Master of Petersburg* (1994), and *Disgrace* (1999), which again won the Booker Prize).The second argument is because the writer is interesting in revealing the correlation between the character and its conflict contained in it and the influence

it brought into the change of characteristic of Magda. From the typical of mellow personality and then changed into the kind of psychopathic person through the story in the novel and various experience that she had with her father in the past. This approach probably can be related with some psychological aspects of human but only on the side of new criticism point of view to do the analysis.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

- How Magda's conflicts portrayed the novel?
- How do the conflicts play its role to the characterization of Magda as depicted in the novel?

1.3. Objectives of the study

- To describe how Magda's conflicts portrayed in the novel.
- To analyze how conflicts play its role to the characterization of Magda as depicted in the novel.

1.4. Significance of the study

The writer hopes this work can be the instrument to understanding more about the element of the story which encompasses around the character, characterization, plot and conflicts that contained inside it. The writer also hopes this research paper will give positive contribution to other students who are

interested in studying the aspect of psychology development in literary work. Moreover, the writer expects that this research paper can give a small contribution for a literary study especially in the Airlangga University in the Faculty of Humanity and for more specifically it is in the English department.

Last but not least this work is also can be used as the extra instrument to know more about novel *In The heart Of The Country* By J.M Coetzee, also for everybody who fond of the English literary world.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

In order to avoid the overlapping explanation, the writer focuses on the analysis of the effect of the conflicts along in the plots with the influence of the changing characterization of Magda as the typical of round character in the novel. The analysis will be related to the condition of Magda as the main character of this novel including her personality and its effect towards her relationship with her father and other character that mentioned in this novel. The character will be analyzed through dialogues, actions, and the story plots which may contain some conflicts between the characters mentioned inside the novel to help the writer to accomplish the purpose of the study.

1.6. Theoretical background

The writer applies the New criticism theory in order to support the analysis inside this work. What is New Criticism? According to Bressler book it is kind of

theory of literary criticism that has been dominated American literary criticism in 1930's to 1960's, the theory is based on the view that a work of art or a text is a concrete object that can, like any other concrete object, be analyzed to discover its meaning independent of its author intention or the emotional state or values of either its author or reader (Bressler 350). The writer will discuss the formal elements of the novel in this research paper.

The writer use the book by Lois Tyson : "*Critical theory today*" and Charles E. Bressler's book entitled "*Literary Criticism: An Introduction to theory and practice*" as supplemental books which also posses the description about new criticism and how to do the close reading in order to initiate the analysis in the atmosphere of new criticism theory. Because for the most of new critics that play the role in the aspects of literary criticism, close reading will be the main tools to analyze any kinds of elements in the literary works before interpret it. As an additional reference in analyzing the text in this study, the writer also uses the book by Rene Wellek and Austin Warren entitled *Theory of Literature*, Holman C Hugh book entitled *A Handbook To Literature*, this book can be really useful for helping this study in the field of literary study especially in New Criticism.

1.7. Method of the study

This analysis is based on the formal elements of literary work that requires the writer to do the close reading on the text, because for most of the New Critics that job was practical criticism or "close reading," in which the poem or literary text is treated as a self-sufficient verbal artifact (Searle 2).

The writer will divide the method of the study into three sections, they are the finding the data source from library research, online browsing, collecting data from books, articles, dictionaries, and many other materials that related in this novel and read as much as possible source that the writer could possibly found in order to reduce the lack of the study by reading the text. To explain the prominent text which show the conflict and describe the writer interpretation supported by theories and data which have been collected to elaborate the analysis. It is also supported by the data sources which are gained from dialogues, events and actions written in the novel. The Second is the Data collecting. Technique of data collecting is gained from certain steps. Close reading is the method of the study by the writers in order to collecting some hidden features that may be very useful in the process.

In this step of collecting data close reading also divided again into two steps they are linguistics and semantics steps of reading. The level of close reading to this text is reach the level of linguistic and the semantic. In the first section of linguistic the writer pay more attention to some kind of text figurative meaning in form of grammar, vocabulary, and syntax and some kind of author's individual style of writing and in the level of semantic reading level the writer try to do close reading deeper than the first part which involve the analysis on the deeper meaning of words and founding some similes, ironies, paradoxes and many else. The primary data used in this research is the novel itself entitled *In the Heart of the Country* by J.M Coetzee. The writer tries to read all of its section and its plot, how it will flow, and what conflicts are happened in there that have some

close correlation in the shaping of Magda Characterization whether it is on the form of direct or indirect description.

The last part of this method of the study is about the data analysis. In this step of data analysis the writer shows how to analyze this novel with the theories that the writer apply to do this research, that is the New Criticism. The writer also uses other supporting questions about the other related source also being used as the idea controller and to make the allure move swiftly in a straight order. The data analysis started on the close reading on the main focus of the research which is the main character of the novel, then the writer try to applies all the theory of new criticism and the understanding about the formal element to analyze the character. The writer here tries to analyze all factors of the characterizations from the main character. The writer chooses to use the aspects of the tonality from the words to analyze the main character's characterizations.

1.8. Definitions of Key Terms

- **Characterization:** A way which authors usually use to give clues or hints about the characteristics of their fictional beings. In indirect presentation, a character's traits are revealed by action and speech.
- **Character:** An important element in literature that makes the story flow, a fictional human being created by the author.
- **Characters:** characters here are persons who represent the attitude of a real human which described by the novelist. The readers are the primary determinant in interpreting each of the characters in a fiction writings

through their saying, dialogues, and actions. Divided into two kinds they are flat characters or round characters.

- **Conflict:** the events that commonly happen in the human aspects in life could be possible as the main factors of the detouring human point of view and personality.

Another definition of conflicts especially on literature can be described as the bond between the characters, usually this can be happened between the protagonist character and the antagonist one