

ABSTRACT

This thesis examines the formal elements, characterization and conflicts, which support theme of the text. Willa Cather's *The Professor's House* novel becomes the primary source of the analysis. Since the theory which is used is New Criticism, the writer is going to analyze the main character's characterization and conflicts that support theme about maintaining happiness is difficult. The character tries so hard to negotiate with the conflicts in order to maintain his happiness but it seems difficult. By using the theory, the writer can reveal that theme of the story is related to character and conflict inside the plot. Moreover, the characterization and plot are formed to support the theme as an organic unity.

Keywords: character, conflict, happiness, New Criticism, and theme