

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

When talking about imagination, the first thing the writer think is about fantasy or something unreal, but in the book titled *The Power of Imagination*, imagination stated as self potential which enable us to understand in seeing reality exceeding our senses (Muhibuddin 16). The writer believes that everyone has imagination, but only few people can develop it in a good manner. Like Anne Shirley which is the main character in *Anne of Green Gables* who has such a grand imagination that influences her every life.

Anne Shirley is a famous character in Canada, especially in Prince Edward Island, for she is appeared in the novel, *Anne of Green Gables*, written by Lucy Maud Montgomery. As a 13 years old girl, Anne Shirley's imagination is differ than any other child in her neighbourhood. This novel is telling about Anne Shirley - as the main character, who has imagination – from her childhood until young adult. Also, about Anne Shirley's characters that developed throughout this story to be more mature than the first she comes to Green Gables.

The titled of Lucy M. Montgomery's first novel is *Anne of Green Gables*. Green Gables itself stands for the place where Anne Shirley live after being mistakenly adopted from orphan asylum by an unmarried siblings, Marilla and

Mathew Cuthbert. This house, Green Gables, is an ancestral farm located in the quiet town of Avonlea in Prince Edward Island, Canada. This is where Anne Shirley spend most of her unforgettable memories filled with many friends and also where she develop her imaginations.

The author of this novel, Lucy M. Montgomery, was born in Clifton, Prince Edward Island, on November, 30th 1874. Her mother, Clara Woolner Macneill Montgomery, died of tuberculosis, when she was twenty one month. Her father, Hugh John Montgomery, who was a merchant, remarried, and moved away to West Canada territory with his wife. Montgomery was raised by her maternal grandparents (from her mother side) who are Alexander Marquis Macneill and Lucy Woolner Macneill and live in Cavendish. She had an unhappy childhood life because she grew up in an atmosphere of strict discipline and punishment for the slightest mistakes.

Montgomery likes reading since her childhood. She started to write in school and had her first poem published in a local paper at the age of fifteen. In 1895-1896 Montgomery studied literature at Dalhousie University, Halifax. She returned to Cavendish to take care of her grandmother, and worked at a local post office. In 1911 after her grandmother died, Montgomery married Ewan MacDonald, the Presbyterian minister, and moved with him to rural Ontario. While caring for her grandmother, she wrote the first book of the Anne series which is *Anne of Green Gables* (Kennedy Online).

Since publication, *Anne of Green Gables* has sold more than 50 million copies. In addition, this book is taught to students around the world. During her lifetime, Montgomery published 20 novels, over 500 short stories, an autobiography, and a book of poetry. *Anne of Green Gables* is the first novel by Lucy among her many books that published in 1908 and become an immediate success after it has been sold for nineteen thousand copies in the first five month and translated into more than 50 languages. In summary, Lucy writes eight books about Anne Shirley. Those series is not written in chronological order based on the year of publishing, but the list below will show the order of Anne's life: *Anne of Green Gables* (1908), *Anne of Avonlea* (1909), *Anne of the Island* (1915), *Anne of Windy Poplars* (1936), *Anne's House of Dreams* (1917), *Anne of Ingleside* (1939), *Rainbow Valley* (1919) and last series is *Rilla of Ingleside* (1920) (Kennedy Online).

Montgomery is honored by being the first female in Canada to be named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in England, election to the Literary and Artistic Institute of France and being made an Officer in the Order of the British Empire in 1935. A national park is established near Montgomery's home in Cavendish in honor of her works. In Japan this novel become part of the school curriculum in 1952. At that time in Japan, this book becomes an inspiration for the children. It is because of the war that happen there which caused many children becomes orphan and this book that tells about an orphan girl, shows her positive behavior even though she lives a hard life. Her novel is already adapted into stage

plays, radio dramas, musicals, movies, television miniseries and movies, and also animated in Japan and America (Kennedy Online).

Montgomery died on April 24, 1942 in Toronto, Ontario and buried in the Cavendish Cemetery in Prince Edward Island. In 1993, the Lucy Maud Montgomery Institution is established at the University of Prince Edward Island and also museum of *Anne of Green Gables*. This institution serves as center for research and study with a focus on education and teaching (Kennedy Online).

Anne Shirley, the main character in this novel, is an orphan girl who has red hair, and also imagination. At first, the orphanage makes a mistake by sending a girl instead of boy as the sibling's request (the Cuthbert family), but in the end they decide to raise Anne as their own. Everything about Anne is very amusing, from the way she talk, act, and also her thoughts. Most of it, always connected with imagination. Her character also develop throughout the story, she is gradually becomes more mature for she can makes sacrifices and not compromise to her selfishness.

This is why *Anne of Green Gables* is an interesting novel, because it tells us all about Anne Shirley, especially in her early year. There were many questions about Anne Shirley that appeared after the writer read this novel; Why is she always cheerful despite her pitiful life? What kind of person is Anne Shirley? Why she has such imagination inside her head? Are her characters developing throughout the story? All this questions lead the writer in finding that this novel is a *Bildungsroman* or in the other word a coming-of-age story. *Bildungsroman*

(coined in 1819 by philologist Karl Morgenstern) is a literary genre from Germany that focuses on the psychological and moral growth of the main character in a literary work from childhood to adulthood (coming of age) therefore character development is extremely important (Wikipedia Online). In *Bildungsroman*, the goal is maturity and the character achieves it gradually with difficulty. In this literary work, *Anne of Green Gables*, Anne Shirley able to reach out and help others after reaching maturity which is her development of character. This is also the reason why the writer chooses this literary work, not only because it is written by a Canadian author that being honored in literary award or famous in the world, but because the story itself can also give moral value for readers about maturity in life.

To analyze *Anne of Green Gables* novel, the writer uses New Criticism, which focuses on the analysis of the text itself. Other than that, the writer use close reading which makes the analysis become more focused on the literary work itself (Tyson 137). Analysis using new criticism is required to find out the evidences and new ideas based on the language of a literary work. This is mean that in finding the evidence about the characterizing of Anne Shirley, the writer will find it from the content of literary work itself which is the novel.

Critical Theory Today mentions that the elements needed to be analyzed in a text are images, symbols, metaphors, rhyme, meter, point of view, setting, characterization, and plot (Tyson 137). Apart from that, the writer will not analyzed all of the elements, but only the characterization since the writer focuses

in finding Anne's characters, therefore the writer will use the fundamentals of characterization by Richard Cohen. Then in finding Anne Shirley character developments the writer will use psychological approach in *Child Psychology* by Lester D. Crow and Alice Crow. In order that the analysis on characterization and character development can be more deeply conducted, whereas the other elements such as setting, plot, and tone are directly inserted in the characterization and character development analysis.

There are many studies using New Criticism especially in finding Characterization in major character, but there was none in the subject of Anne Shirley and her imagination. Yuvencia Yunita (200-2001) analyzes the importance of creative power in Isabel Allende's major character, *Eva Luna*, and focuses in finding Eva's imagination which helped her overcome her life struggle and also the influence for having imagination in her life same like Anne Shirley.

From many of Montgomery's books, the writer chooses *Anne of Green Gables* because it is the first book that she wrote that contains many of Anne's imaginations during childhood. However, the writer also think that this novel is worthy of the moral value for the readers.

B. Statement of the Problems

The major character of Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables*, Anne Shirley, will be analyzed further through these questions:

1. How does Anne Shirley's character delineate reflection of her imagination?

2. How does Anne Shirley's character development reflect her imagination as it is portrayed throughout the story?

C. Objective of the Study

Regarding to the statement of the problem and in relation to the focus of the analysis, the aims of the analysis of study are:

1. To explain Anne Shirley's character as the reflection of her imagination in the story.
2. To describe Anne Shirley's character developments as portrayed in the story.

D. Significance of the Study

From this thesis, the writer hopes that readers can enrich their knowledge about literary works. Furthermore readers also can appreciate and understand more about Lucy Maud Montgomery's novel, *Anne of Green Gables*. Especially gives inspiration and explanation about Anne Shirley along with her imagination throughout the story. It is shown in this story that Anne Shirley has imagination not like ordinary people but she can manage to control it and become useful for others. On the other hand, the writer hopes that this thesis will also explained further about Anne Shirley's characters and her character development. Last but not least, this paper may give contribution to literary department especially to its students.

E. Scope and Limitation

Scope and limitation is very important since it prevent us from broaden analysis which is far from the targeted issues. This thesis is limited in discussing about the characterization on Anne Shirley as the central. The other minor characters such as Marilla, Matthew, Diana, and so on, are discussed only in their relation in finding Anne Shirley's characters. Last, the writer tries to find Anne Shirley's character developments from the first she came to Green Gables until her preadolescent year. In brief, this paper is limited in analyzing characterization and her character development as the reflection of her imagination.

F. Theoretical Background

To know the character and the connection of imagination in *Anne of Green Gables* novel, the writer uses new criticism theory to analyze this literary text. Richard Cohen stated in his book *Writer's Mind – Crafting Fiction*, the foundation in characterizing can be find through her names, her physical appearance, her personal histories, what she say, what others say about her, how she act in response to specific situation, how she act habitually and her thoughts (Cohen 38).

Furthermore, Anne Shirley's characters also develop throughout the story and this will also analyzed further by the writer. To understand her character developments throughout the story, the writer will analyze it using the stages in the development of character from *Child Psychology* by Lester D. Crow and Alice Crow as a supporting theory, therefore, New Criticism will be the main theory

especially when looking at the main character in the story. Those approach and theory will help the writer in getting deeper analysis in this thesis.

G. Method of the Study

The writer read Lucy Maud Montgomery's first novel *Anne of Green Gables* and is interested in analyzing further about the characterization of Anne Shirley and also finding the character development through this literary work. This novel is about a girl named Anne Shirley which is not an ordinary girl. There are developments in her characters and one of her character which is very interesting that she is like to imagining something. These points are the problems that will analyze further in this thesis.

For the data collection, firstly, the writer will read *Anne of Green Gables* novel as the primary source. Secondly, the writer will only focuses on the major character of the novel, Anne Shirley as she is the main issue in this thesis. Thirdly, in answering the problems, the writer tries to observing Anne Shirley's characters from her physical appearance and history, content of dialogue, Anne Shirley's action, and her thoughts. Those are based on the fundamental of characterization by Richard Cohen (Cohen 38). Furthermore the writer will elaborates Anne Shirley character developments using the stages in the development based on the age of the character from *Child Psychology* by Lester D. Crow and Alice Crow which are: the first year (age 0-3), later preschool years (age 3-6), elementary school year (age reach 12 years), and preadolescent year (during adolescent and

adult). But the writer will only focus on the last two stages, since Anne Shirley came to Green Gables during that age.

After that, the writer tries to explain the technique of data analysis. The writer has already mentioned in the previous part, that this thesis will use New Criticism to analyze the data. The emphasis on close reading includes carefully reading of the texts to support readers (in this case is the writer) to find out the meaning and interpret a brief passage of literary works. Tyson mention in his book that in analyzing literary text the readers should pay attention to the words in the text and explore the formal elements such as images, symbols, metaphors, settings, characterization, and plot of the text itself. (141). However, the writer will only focuses on the characterization to analyze the text, because this thesis is analyzing about Anne Shirley character and her development of character but without forget that plot, setting, and other formal elements is also influence this story.

In the process in collecting the data, the writer not only uses the novel itself that is why online and library researches are use as the secondary sources. This thesis is also done by collecting data from various books, journal, articles, critics, review, and other material from both internet and library that is used to support in analyzing the thesis. Apart from that, the related information which get both from online and books are not far from the general issue in this thesis, whether it is the literary theories or the approaches which are used in the analysis of *Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Maud Montgomery.

H. Definition of Key Terms

Character : The image that made up by the author in the story and only appears on the page or literary work (Gill 77).

Characterization : Characterization is the way in which the character is created (Gill 127)

Character Development : Character development is the change in characterization of a character (mostly dynamic character or round character) in a literary work that emphasize in maturation of the individual through a process that influenced by surroundings which are the people or the place where the character lives.

Imagination : Imagination is a field of image and this should be differing with the perspective of the outside world about the concept. Imagination produce image and became the image, but mind produce concept (Katherine Online)

Imagination stated as self potential which enable us to understand in seeing reality exceeding our senses (Muhibuddin 16)