

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Every single human's traits can sometimes be different from one to another. A human's life traits are significantly divided into two, the good and the bad. Actually, a trait itself is something that is shaped by a person's process of thought and searching, which is sometimes added by the surrounding people's behaviors. A person's trait is not merely about good and bad ones, the interesting thing about human beings are that they are different from some other creatures. Human's life is very complex. The complexity of human's life can be filled with problems, conflicts, feelings, thoughts and behaviors. Human beings can choose what they want based on that complexity above. As problems arise, human beings can learn something, possess something and come with a conclusion. From the conclusion, their thoughts can be diverted into action that they choose.

A person's traits can be determined by his/her family. The searching can start from his/her childhood. A family is the first and foremost environment in the process of child growth and development. Children begin to learn to interact with the people around starting from parents, siblings and other family members. According to Karen Horney as quoted in *Theories of Personality* written by Jess Feist and Gregory J. Feist, children need to experience both genuine love and healthy discipline. Such conditions provide them with feelings of safety and satisfaction and permit children to grow in accordance with their real self (159). Feeling of safety and satisfaction is the condition when children get what they

need from their parents. Indeed, children's traits who are completely fulfilled by safety and satisfaction above would be determined as healthy psychological development.

There are several reasons of dissatisfactions which shape children's traits. Children may face for instance, lack of their parents' love and because of the presence of another baby. These two issues can lead that children to have a complex internal conflict when they get older. "If something happens during his/her growth age, it is certain that children will be abnormal in their life. It is a long-term psychological problem" (Moesono 9). The problem can affect their traits and minds which may have impact on the children's future life through their future's traits. These are the issues that the writer finds in *P.S. I Love You*.

P.S. I Love You is a fictional novel written by Cecelia Ahern. The title of the novel refers to the letters left for the main character, Holly Kennedy, by her beloved husband, Gerry Clarke. To help her along, Gerry prepares some letters before he dies. P.S. here means postscript, the note added by the writer of the letters in the end of his letters. I Love You simply determines a feeling of love to someone. P.S. I Love You is the word Gerry used in his letters to Holly, to encourage her since he knows exactly that his death would bring a great impact to Holly.

P.S. I Love You opens with Holly's deepest sadness due to Gerry's death. It tells about Gerry's suffering from brain tumor. Then the story moves backward, telling about how a great man Gerry was. Holly marries Gerry at the age of twenty three. Gerry is one year older than her. She thinks that she has a great love to Gerry and so does Gerry. After describing about Holly, Ahern as the author

narrates Holly's childhood. According to the writer, although Ahern only gives a few facts about Holly's childhood but they are very significant in her future life. Regarding to the facts about Holly's childhood, the writer has drawn a complete traits of Holly which is caused by Holly's childhood life.

P.S. I Love You is written in the third person point of view through the perspectives of the author as the narrator. This novel delivers Holly as the main character who comes from a prominent and wealthy family in the Irish Republic. The Kennedys live in a big house near the sea which provides pacifying scenery. Holly has three brothers and a sister while she herself is the third daughter of her parents, Frank and Elizabeth Kennedy. Actually, Holly also has couples of best friends, Denise and Sharon. Denise is an adventure girl. It means she does not want to be tied up by only one man. Sharon is her best mate since she was in a junior high school. Sharon is dating John who is also Gerry's best friend. The narrator wants to show Holly's difficulties in having a new friend. Moreover, Holly is described as a dependent woman who always tries to relate to someone who spoils her. In Holly's case, being spoiled is something satisfying for her. Holly is pleased with her brother's company. According to Holly, her brother, Jack is trying to accompany and give her attention inside her house. Problems are getting more complex by the death of Gerry. She always thinks Gerry is the best and because of this, she locks herself in sadness, avoid continuing her life. She wants people around her to understand her sadness and she is particularly jealous of other people's happiness.

P.S. I Love You delivers the facts of Republic of Ireland completed with places to hang out added with the uniqueness and the hospitality of Irish people.

Ahern determines the works as a selling-point media to her beloved country. She was born on September 30, 1981 in Dublin, Ireland. She is the daughter of Bertie Ahern, Irish Taoiseach (Prime Minister) since June 26, 1997, and is the sister-in-law of Nicky Byrne, member of Irish pop group Westlife who is married to her older sister, Georgina Ahern. Before embarking on her writing career, Cecelia Ahern completed a Degree in Journalism and Media Communications. At the age of twenty-one, she wrote her debut novel *P.S. I Love You*, published in January 2004, which was sold to over forty countries. The novel was one of the biggest-selling debut novels of 2004, reaching No.1 in Ireland and in the U.K. Sunday Times bestseller list and was selected for the Richard and Judy Summer Read campaign. It was also a bestseller throughout Europe and the U.S.A., staying on the best-seller list in Germany for over 52 weeks. For her debut novel, she was nominated for Best Newcomer 2004/05 at the British Book and in 2006; she was long-listed for the IMPAC award (Wand 1). The film of the same title was optioned by Warner Bros and Wendy Finerman Productions. It has now been made into a motion picture directed by Richard LaGravenese, starring Hilary Swank, Lisa Kudrow, Kathy Bates, Gerard Butler, Harry Connick Jr., Gina Gershon and Jeffrey Dean Morgan. Ahern became a productive writer by publishing the other books in the following years, *Where Rainbows End* (2004), *If You Could See Me Now* (2005), and *A Place Called Here* (2006) (Wand, 1).

Specifically, *P.S. I Love You* implies the main character's traits develop from feeling of helplessness into a better form. The writer here will focus on how Holly handles her basic hostility which starts from her childhood life, and then improves into basic anxiety until she is successfully cured. By the time Holly's

basic anxiety has been cured, Holly's most powerful partner, Gerry passed away. Indeed, something terrible occurs then. Hence, according to the writer of this study, the novel *P.S. I Love You* written by Cecelia Ahern is worthy to be analyzed.

1.2. Statement of the Problems

The background of the study leads to some statements that are going to be analyzed. The following statements are intended to make a clear focus on the analysis

1. How does basic hostility affect Holly's traits?
2. How does the process of developing Holly's new traits?

1.3. Objective of the Study

In organizing the study, there are several objectives that the writer wants to achieve. The objective of the study is intended to answer every question, as in the statement of the problems. Therefore, the writer tries to answer the above questions:

1. To analyze how Holly's basic hostility affects her traits.
2. To analyze the process of developing Holly's new traits.

1.4. Significance of the Study

The aim of this thesis is to inform the readers about the precious meaning behind *P.S. I Love You* novel. This is such a great novel of dependency, jealousy and losing a beloved person. The writer hopes that the readers can learn the way

Holly's childhood basic hostility affects her traits. Besides that, it is essential to acknowledge the readers that the feeling of helplessness that Holly faces has become the obstacles in the searching of warmth and loving condition in her childhood. Gerry's death also brings a deep impact to Holly. She is pathetically locking herself inside her house for over two months. Holly becomes a woman who does not want to continue her life. She just traps on her shoulder of past and her lost future. A complex human being's problem that Holly faces.

Finally, it is also expected that this study would be meaningful as a contribution towards the study of literature, particularly in the English Department of Airlangga University, especially for those who want to make a further study about conflicts and a character's traits. It can be an effective medium in broadening and stimulating the readers' mind and making them aware of the enhanced media that the writer uses. Eventually, there will be more interesting and understanding in reading the novel.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

There are many problems, events, and conflicts in the novel *P.S. I Love You*, which can be analyzed through various perspectives. To avoid an unfocused analysis, the writer is more concerned and limits the discussion on Holly Kennedy's traits in this novel. In some sections, the writer will also analyze the conflicts within herself and with other people. The real conflicts occur after the death of Gerry. The writer also analyzes how the traits develop, when the discussion reaches the climax, and then the resolution of the climax delivers the development Holly's new traits.

Therefore, the writer finds the importance to study the correlation of Holly's traits and other characters'. The other characters here are for instance Holly's parents, Holly's family, Holly's best friends, Gerry and Daniel – a new guy who Holly meets after Gerry is dead. Those persons really develop their own traits whether Holly realizes or not also shape her traits.

1.6. Theoretical Background

The writer is going to apply intrinsic approach by Edgar V. Roberts since it is easier to understand and the proper one to be applied in this novel. The purpose of the approach is to analyze the elements which are plot, setting, character and characterization, and theme. Nevertheless, the writer will focus on Holly's traits in which it can be figured out in character and characterization as the intrinsic elements. To obtain a deeper analysis, the writer also needs plot as one of the intrinsic elements. Character, according to Richard Gill in his book entitled *Mastering English Literature*, is an extended verbal representation of a human being – the complex combination of both the inner and the outer self (64). On the other side, According to Edgar V. Roberts in his book entitled *Writing Themes about Literature*, characterization is the technique that an author uses to describe someone's image character, and the people's traits the author creates in a story (147). Each character has its own traits that differentiates her from other characters. Roberts added, as characterization is the way an author presents his or her character, it is intensively significant in a novel because the story, in which an author conveys his or her idea, is closely interrelated to it (147). Plot here is used to reveal the climax of the novel that the main character faces. Moreover, as the

climax happens, the writer tries to figure out how the development of Holly Kennedy's traits.

In applying the theory, in order to get a deeper analysis, the writer will not merely use a single concept from one theorist, but he will use several concepts from some theorists to elaborate the analysis of the novel.

To reveal the process of Holly's traits developed, the writer chooses basic anxiety from Karen Horney. Karen Horney stated as quoted in *Theories of Personality* written by Jess Feist and Gregory J. Feist, basic anxiety is the representation of childhood life appears in a person's adult life. Horney believed that each person begins life with the potential for healthy development, but like other living organisms, people need favorable conditions for growth. These conditions must include a warm and loving environment yet one that is not overly permissive (159).

1.7. Method of the Study

In writing this thesis, the writer will apply two basic techniques which are: data collecting and data analysis. Data collecting is obtained from library researches in which the writer gains information from various sources such as: literary books, essays, critics, dictionaries, encyclopedia and online library. Some relevant theoretical books are used to support the understanding about literary theories.

Nevertheless, the main source of the study is, of course, the novel itself. He elaborates dialogues, plots, actions, events, and conflicts that are found in the novel. The writer also browses many on-line sources to find additional

information that can be used to support the discussion on the main idea. After collecting and identifying the qualitative data, the writer applies the data analysis. In analyzing the data, the writer of this study determines a descriptive analysis. The data are related to intrinsic approach, basic hostility and basic anxiety, and other books related to Republic of Ireland.

1.8. Definition of Key Terms

- Jealousy* : Resentful or painful desire for other people's advantages.
- Basic hostility* : A feeling of dissatisfaction and insecurity of person, usually children developing their relation to their parents.
- Basic anxiety* : A feeling of being isolated and helplessness in a world conceived as potentially hostile.
- Conflict* : Disharmony between incompatible or antithetical persons, ideas, or interests.
- Traits* : A generally determined characteristic or condition of a character.