

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

I.1 Background of the Study

Talking about literature our mind has usually been brought to the events in imaginative dimensions, which have already been written in pieces of paper. This literature is beautifully written, well - composed to charm any kind of readers. Presumably, people's thought, value and even people's whole way of life are reflected through such literature.

" This is because the literature of a people is the principal element of its culture. It contains the record of the peoples' values, their problems and conflicts, in short, their whole way of life " (Little, 1966 ; 1)

Further, Laurence Perrine, in his Story and Structure gives the idea of interpretive literature that it is written to broaden and deepen and sharpen our awareness of life (1959 ; 3 - 4). Based on these opinions we understand that literature contains values, problems and even further understanding of life. One of the problems of life which always appears in our daily activity and which has been written in such pieces of paper will be raised into discussion as the thesis.

We already know that literary works can be seen through such works as prose, poetry and drama. In this

case, the writer would like to discuss one of them, that is, prose. The prose or we can say the novel is defined as ' a fictitious prose narrative of considerable length in which characters and actions representative of real life are portrayed in a plot of more or less complexity ' (Rees, 1972 ; 106). It means that the novel as one of the literary works mentioned above reveals human life which is full of experiences, problems of life and one of the problems of life, let's say, frustration, is going to be discussed here as the thesis. Rather, this study will only focus on the formalistic context in the sense that the writer will focus on the literary work itself without regarding to the social and cultural context that cause the author to create such literary work.

Presumably, the writer is going to analyse one of Thomas Hardy's works as most of his characters in his great novels are the victims of the blind life force. The main characters are eventually ended in sorrow as the things that happen to his characters are sometimes brought about by an element of unfortunate and malicious chance.

" Man, in Hardy's books is the product of heredity and environment and evenmore he is the product as well as the victim of the blind life force that Hardy sees it occassionally as malignant..... We see his people against the background of the native Wessex, suffering, struggling figures in conflict with forces too strong for them " (Bakker, 1975 ; 77)

Rather, most of Thomas Hardy's novels such as The Return of the Native, The Trumpet Major, The Mayor of Casterbridge, The Woodlanders, Tess of the D'urbervilles and Jude the Obscure are the novels of tragedy of human life whose characters are mostly ended in sorrow, suffering and struggling figures in conflict with forces too strong for them which lead one of the main characters of those novels into the condition of frustration. This is the reason why the writer chooses Thomas Hardy's work as one of his works The Mayor of Casterbridge, fulfills the requirement of the topic for discussion as the thesis, frustration.

Human being tends to live happily and wisely and to gain such a dream he should be fulfilled with material possession or high position. But to attain such things is not easy. Even when they are successful in gaining these things hindrances that ruin these possessions come. Factors that become hindrances of gaining his purposes are lack of specific ability, inadequate self - control and omission of reward. These factors can bring a person to fall into the condition of frustration which has been similarly undergone by Michael Henchard, the main character of Thomas Hardy's The Mayor of Casterbridge.

Frustration is a natural phenomenon that human being unavoidably undergoes. It is unique in that character in the sense that this frustration can make the main character, Michael Henchard, be a living one. It is seen from

the beginning of the story, the main character has been frustrated by his early marriage that makes the sale of his wife possible. But in the following sections the wife reappears and causes him to be in frustration. This is why the writer raises frustration as the topic to discuss in this thesis, analysed from the characterization of Michael Henchard in Thomas Hardy's The Mayor of Casterbridge .

The Mayor of Casterbridge is a novel which reveals the ruin of a good man by his innocent wife who then draws him into the condition of complete disappointment. This is known in the very beginning of the novel when such topic of conversation is frequently held.

" The ruin of good men by bad wives, and, more particularly, the frustration of many a promising youth's high aims and hopes and the extinction of his energies by an early imprudent marriage, was the theme " (Thomas Hardy, 5)

Based on the quotation above, we are then to understand that most of good men are ruined by their innocent wives and Michael Henchard similarly undergoes such ruin which then leads him into the condition of frustration. Thus, Michael Henchard's frustration in the novel of Thomas Hardy's The Mayor of Casterbridge becomes the writer's interest as the topic for discussion in this thesis as frustration is a natural phenomenon that human being usually undergoes in real life.

I.2. Statement of the Problem

I.2.1 - How is Michael Henchard's frustration depicted in Thomas Hardy's The Mayor of Casterbridge ?

I.2.2 - What makes the condition of Michael Henchard's frustration become possible in Thomas Hardy's The Mayor of Casterbridge ?

I.3. Objective of the Study

I.3.1 - To depict Michael Henchard's frustration in Thomas Hardy's The Mayor of Casterbridge

I.3.2 - To convey the main causes of Michael Henchard's frustration in Thomas Hardy's The Mayor of Casterbridge

I.4. Significance of the Study

The writer expects that this study will give a contribution to the body of knowledge, especially to the understanding of the nature of literature. Also, it is expected to be useful for any student, or even anyone of any position, who wants to know more about Thomas Hardy's The Mayor of Casterbridge especially in dealing with an aspect of life, frustration. Then by understanding Michael Henchard's frustration, we are expected to know frustration, its phenomena and the factors that lead a person to be in frustration. So by such knowledge we hope to be able to avoid of frustration.

I.5. Theoretical Background

Since frustration is in the scope of psychology, the writer then uses the psychological approach. By which we mean to analyse the aspects of psychology in the work itself, without considering the life of the author and his thought and his environment where he creates such literary work. Thus, the analysis is purely intrinsic aspect.

I.6. Method of the Study

The writer in this study uses confirmatory descriptive method by which we mean that we use a theory to analyse the discussed matter (Aminuddin, 1981 ; 7). Thus by this method the writer collects the data which are relevant to the subject matter and then applies a theory to give further explanation.

I.7. Definition of Key Terms

I.7.1 - Frustration is the condition of a person after experiencing a failure of a particular goal

I.7.2 - Regression is the return of somebody's behaviour to the bygone years of life

I.8. Organization of the Paper

This thesis is divided into four parts. The first chapter is the introduction which consists of the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective

of the study, significance of the study, theoretical background, method of the study, definition of key terms and organization of the paper. The second chapter is the theoretical framework which consists of related theory and related study, while the third chapter is the analysis which consists of two main discussions, Michael Henchard's frustration and the causes of frustration experienced by Michael Henchard. The last one consists of three sub-discussions, namely, Michael Henchard's lack of specificity, Michael Henchard's inadequate self - control and Michael Henchard's omission of reward. And conclusion will be given in chapter four.

CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK