

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

Exile is the condition of being away from something. This term indicates the feeling of isolated. In this condition, someone is usually forced to leave a place and head for other places. *The Exile*, a novel of Pearl S. Buck, contains a similar atmosphere with the actual meaning as being away and alone. *The Exile* is a study of the life and personality of a missionary's wife living in China. It is based largely on the author's mother who lived in China for years in exactly the same circumstances described in the novel.

*The Exile*, as the title suggest, is mostly about the nomadic life of the character. The character happens to have dilemmatic circumstances, which lead to the occurrence of inner-conflict. Pearl S. Buck described her as an independent and tough woman who manages to deal with the complicated matters. She determined to master her circumstances, and who was evidently a remarkable woman in her 'exiled' condition.

As it has been stated before, the novel is based on the author's own life in China. Pearl S. Buck lived much of her life in China. The author herself was born in Hillsboro, West Virginia, on June 26, 1892. The daughter of Presbyterian missionaries, she was taken to Chinkiang, China, in her infancy and was educated in Shanghai. In 1900, when she was eight years old, the Boxer Rebellion threw

the Sydenstrickers' life into turmoil. Chinese nationalists turned in Westerners, and for a while the family feared for their lives. Absalom sent Pearl, her mother, and her baby sister to Shanghai, which was relatively safe for Westerners, but in 1901 the family returned to America. However, they were soon back in China again, regardless of danger. She moved back to America in the early 1903s and immediately began to campaign for minority and women's right. She was a member of the women organization and wrote numerous magazine articles on women's rights. One of her most significant achievements was winning the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1938. She was the first woman to win this prestigious award. She died in 1973 and succeeded in opening American's minds about social, racial, and gender injustice in her writing and acts.

Pearl S. Buck succeeded in attributing an important element to the character of her novel. As a woman, this character is very complex. Before married, she has her ideology and desire but after married she is forced to adjust her own ideology to another ideology and, of course, social condition. This adjustment does not happen smoothly. It results many conflicts inside her self, which led her to certain condition, which according to Karen Horney is called *Basic Anxiety*. She also proposed the strategies to cope with *Basic Anxiety*, which she called *Neurotic Trends*.

Carie is used to living as a religious person since all members of the family are missionaries. This condition enforced her to become a missionary in alien country, China. In her teenage time, she used all her times in searching for God's call. In her searching she thought that God had given her the sign of

approval. She married Andrew who happened to be stationed in China. She felt sure that her dream would come true. Gradually, her point of view changed. After she had experienced great sufferings, which is losing four out of seven children she had, Andrew's patriarchy principle, and her disappointment for not attaining the "real" calling she searched for.

The character of Carie is chosen from other characters to emphasize the discussion in this thesis for her perfect blending of complexity. Carie is a human, a woman, and a mother with a perfect family background, independency, different principle and option in life. Her belonging to self-consciousness, and self-actualization of herself as a woman is something to be counted for. So as a living character, Carie is very potential to be the main object of analysis regarding her complexity.

### **B. Statement of the Problem**

The perfect blending of Carie's personality in Pearl S. Buck's novel *The Exile* is significant to be analyzed due to these problems:

1. How do Carie's personality changes occur viewed from sociocultural theory of personality?

### **C. Objective of the Study**

The object of the study is to find the answers for the proposed problems through the analysis. Therefore, the study is aimed:

1. To describe Carie's personality changes based on sociocultural theory of personality.

#### **D. Significant of the Study**

The study is aimed to enrich our knowledge about literary work, which in this case is Pearl S. Buck's novel, *The Exile*. It is also an attempt to broaden our mind about the life of women, especially in marriage and the shifts of personality that happened as the result of direct interaction with the society. Moreover, this study will give benefits and advantages for those who need it in the future.

#### **E. Scope and Limitation**

In this study, major attention will be given to the character of Carie. In other words, the analysis will study the character of Carie through the intrinsic element of character, plot, and setting. The characterization will be analyzed based on Karen Horney's *Theory of Personality* to explore more about the character's personality changes.

#### **F. Related Studies.**

In this thesis the studies previously constructed in the field of feminism and psychoanalysis in the English Department of Airlangga University are used as the input for the research constructed in those two fields. The field of feminism and psychoanalysis are chose since the main analysis of the thesis is a complex blending of them, that is feminine psychology. The following thesis are noted to

give many contributions in constructing the idea in this thesis. Saiful Arifin wrote the struggle of main woman character in the novel of Nawal El-Saadawi's *Memoirs of a Woman Doctor*, who is struggling her self-identity by maintaining herself to get high education. While Romy Sujatmiko wrote about the struggle of a woman in the china against her society in the novel *The Three Daughters of Madame Liang* written by Pearl S. Buck.

In the field of psychoanalysis, Desi Tricahyaningati wrote about tragic insanity as the failure in finding self-identity through interrelationship with the family in William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*. Heny H. Listijanti wrote about Oedipus Complex in Eugene O'neill's *Long Day Journey Into Night*. While Anna Ambarsari observed Raskolnikov's inner conflicts in Fyodor Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*.

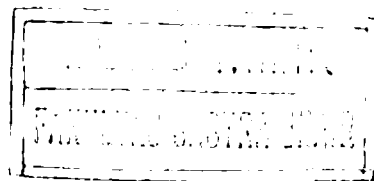
### **G. Method of the Study**

In working on the thesis, research in the library is generated to support the analysis of the problems. Research here means a process of finding information, which is useful to help the writer in analyzing the work.

The first stage is conducted by collecting information from books, articles, journals, encyclopedias, Internet and other printed material related to the work of Pearl S. Buck, particularly *The Exile*. Information is also got from any particular books dealing with literary theories and approaches that will be used in the analysis. Other books dealing with feminism are also utilized as supporting material related to the study.

## H. Definition of Key Terms

- **Anxiety** : the state of being unstable, uneasy, or worried about what may happen because of the occurrence of conflict both internal or external one.
- **Boxer rebellion** : China' first large scale uprising, conducted to get rid of foreign influence.
- **The call** : a term that represents God's sign of approval or rejection toward one's action.
- **Her self** : possessive pronouns, used before nouns that identify the existence of 'self'.
- **Herself** : reflexive pronoun, used when both subject and the complement refer to the same person or thing.
- **Missionary** : person sent on a mission, especially on a religious mission.
- **Neurotic trends** : strategies in coping with anxiety, cover 3 strategies; moving toward people, moving against people, and moving away from people.



## **CHAPTER II**

# **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**