

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

The existence of a person within the story inside of a literary works perhaps facilitates to define several things, such as how the journey of the story or the idea that the author try to present. Thus, to represent the image of human existence inside the story, characters are created. Character, perhaps, by following the story along in the literary works allows the readers to acknowledge the element, such as meaning, idea, theme and any importance such the value or feeling writer deliberately set within the message that is presented by the author of the literary works.

Character is one of the important things in short stories, dramas, or even movies. It often helps literary works to become interesting to be read or watched. Sometimes people just read a novel or watch a movie only if they are interested in character which appear in that novel or movie. We also often remember the story of a novel or a movie when we are reminded by one character in that novel or movie.

Literary work can be seen as a living thing as it has its own story which provides experiences to its readers. As a universe exists, it can be considered alive by the readers to interpret the meaning of the existence itself (Tyson 136). Since the interpretation of the literature is left up to the readers, each interpretation of the meaning can be different. To settle that the problem, we can take a look at the

formal elements of the work such as images, symbols, metaphors, rhyme, meter, point of view, setting, characterization, plot, and so on (Tyson 137).

One perhaps can see from the characterization its relation with the theme of the story, when the author tends to present the idea discussed by giving the honor to the character created. The theme of the story may bring the whole idea of the story within the journey of the character. Revealed between the theme and the characterization, the meaning of the texts may be able to be understood easier. A way to see the relation between the characterization and the theme perhaps can be found in several literary works. Thus, perhaps by the appearance of character that author create or choose might help readers in understand the literary works.

This study discusses the novel which is written by a Pulitzer Prize-winning American novelist, short story writer, and designer, Edith Wharton. She was born in New York City. Wharton combined her insider's view of America's privileged classes with a brilliant, natural wit to write humorous, perceptive novels and short stories of social and psychological insight. She was well familiar with many of her era's other literary and public figures, including Theodore Roosevelt. She married Edward (Teddy) Robbins Wharton, a sportsman and gentleman of the same social class that was 12 years older in 1885. Then, she divorced with in 1913. Around the same time, Edith was overcome with the harsh criticisms leveled by the naturalist writers. In addition to novels, Wharton wrote at least 85 short stories. She wrote several design books, including her first published work, *The Decoration of Houses* of 1897, co-authored by Ogden Codman. Another is the generously illustrated *Italian Villas and Their Gardens* of 1904 (online).

Summer is one of Edith Wharton's novels which best known for her portrayals of upper-class New York society. This novel was published in 1917 by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Her novel is meaningful because at the end of the novel, the reader can obtain important values of life that reflect the author's ideas about life. It can give spirit and enrich the readers understanding about the power of a women's struggle for equality and happiness in her life. Perhaps, in this work, it is significant to notify (understand) the clarification of story from women side and have it depicted the gender struggle performed in the effort to reach for proper fairness. Many of Wharton's novels are characterized by a subtle use of dramatic irony. In addition to writing several respected novels, Wharton produced (created) a wealth of short stories and is particularly well regarded for her ghost stories. Therefore, her novel is unique, enjoyable, and interesting to read by readers.

This thesis discussed of Wharton's *Summer*, focuses on the way how Charity's position herself as an outsider of the community she bond with and particularly her gender as woman makes her more vulnerable to fight in the class struggle that she put effort Her plight confirms how intertwined patriarchy is with capitalism. Brought down from the Mountain by the father figure, Mr. Royall, Charity – true to the name Royall gave her – internalizes the belief that she must submit to patriarchy in order to enhance her material conditions. Her mother had been a prostitute. When she was 17 a drunken Mr. Royall intruded into her bedroom. He later urged her to marry him. Mr. Royall helps her procure (get) the

position of town librarian, in spite (hate) of her lack of education. In this library, she meets Lucius Harney when he is studying.

The novel is set in New England in a town named North Dormer. It is depicted as an agricultural town whose "few able-bodied men are off in the fields or woods, and the women indoors, engaged in languid household drudgery" (100). This quote sheds light on two critical concerns of the text: first, North Dormer is a town striving to lift itself to the likes of Nettleton to be as growing and popular as it, since the town requires certain state of development to be able to compete with its surroundings in order to survive and, second, that gendered obligations or perhaps in other words how society placed the gender onto some sort of rule such as in the early part of this paragraph, are exercised in this society. The town itself might even apply such gender-distinguished obligations, where it puts most men to have duty in winning the bread while women are responsible for taking care of any household work. Charity's situation mimics that of North Dormer: trapped between the isolated, impoverished Mountain community and the "vision of the glittering streets of Nettleton" (101). The only way Charity knows to achieve this vision is through the charity of the men around her. This notion limits Charity's ability at true fulfillment and instigates her resentment or distaste for other girls like Annabel Balch, who so easily embodies the ideals on gender and class, and Julia, who threatens and questions the ideals. In short, perhaps little by little by using the facility provided through men around her, Charity is able to make progress of her own personal mission to be free, but in return it has the disadvantage that reverses the situation to limit her movement such as the option where giving the idea that by

marrying a man who also wants go out of the town at the same time fulfill her own dream, but what happen if the man she marry change his mind and settled in the current town. An example of the way in which Charity is restricted by her gender is in her pregnancy. In short she perhaps such accept herself as a person, while her gender status as a female such give an unknown rules that someday as a woman she might be pregnant, which perhaps an obstacle for her dream.

Gender, perhaps by simply best defined as the difference of human sex, such male and female, despite its complex understanding. Gender perhaps occur with one package of one's physical traits, it is the intricate interrelationship between those traits and one's inner sense of self as male, female, both or neither as well as one's external presentations and behaviors related to that perception. Sandra Bern, Cornell University Research Psychologist, explain that children begin to differentiate between male and female as a way to start organizing information about the world, classify what it means to be a male or a female through activities as they begin to fit in these definitions into their own increasing personalities. By age two, tell apart between a male and a female, by age four/five, persist that other's and themselves take action according to behavior believed appropriate for their gender (Mann 45-46).

Through this novel, the writer expects to acquire one of several depictions to portray such issues that related or may attach with gender existence. During human history, the positions of women and men in societies have been harmonizing. Long time ago humans learned to cooperate to stay alive. Women's roles of hold duty in responsible of children go together with men's roles of

defending families and traveling group from the dangers of pre-historic life. Men's hunting skill coped with women's capacity collecting edible plants, berries and roots. Perhaps several theories and study exist to explain how gender positioning above became power-based to such give justification that, men's with their physical strength may have changed into decision-making supremacy. Women's gift to give life throughout childbirth may have pressed men to declare control over women's mysterious ability, in addition such women's physical weakness which allows women experience tremendous exhaustion during childbirth may have led men to take leadership roles in families and groups. Culture perhaps repeatedly utilized to justify unfairness or to act as a restriction to equality. It is sufficient to view the balancing and independent nature of gender positions. It is also significant to confront those label and attitudes that keep people who may distinguished based on their gender in low status and prevent them from accomplishment their full potential. In other terms, women and men enclose to build respect for each other's position, roles and goals in life, contribute to resources and decision-making, and express shared support for gender equality to become a reality (online).

The novel offers the matter that involves within gender difference. It means that the treatment received by the distinct genders might significantly dissimilar which also leads the option of life that can be chosen by the distinct genders may be different as well. Finally, this possibly gives birth to issues that related with the gender disparity, a portray of human that might have rights to discriminate others based on gender differences. Significant differences between

genders in society may clearly be seen on the aspect of education and job vacancy. The early era put female as the second on many aspect of life, while nowadays perhaps the chance of equality between male and female improved.

The writer chooses to work on a novel because of its ability to take the readers to a certain situation, place or periods that occur in the novel. The novel is a reflection of problems in life, such the masculine and feminine separation issue that divide the position of individuals based on gender. Through its series of events and conflicts experienced by the characters, the readers are brought into exploration of the character's life in the novel. The novel invites readers to feel, to understand and to solve the conflicts that they gain from the novel. At the end of the novel, the readers can obtain the messages or values which are revealed in the novel.

Edith Wharton's *Summer* reveals the issue possibly direct to gender of a woman reflected in the main character, Charity Royall. Thus, the writer would like to focus on the study in analyzing Charity Royall, how she reacts towards the conflict, how her relationship with everyone who involve in her life such a replace father, also other man that she just uses to ease her dream to get out of town, and how the issue that might have tendency of gender depicted. As a woman, the main character, Charity Royall, has to face many problems in her life. She has to struggle in her life, especially with her gender as a female in the small town of North Dormer. This is an interesting issue which is concerned with women who live, especially in a small town because they have to fight to defend their dignity as women in their own community. In other words, this study will not only

discuss about character, but also the issue gender that are connected to it and the problem which come up along with its existence.

The main character, Charity Royall, has to be an obedient and foster daughter of Lawyer Royall, also as a librarian in her life. The old belief among the small town society which states that women's best place is in the house gives the difficulties in finding choices in their life. Women need to be strong and independent rather than weak and dependent because women have more than one role in life. They can be a mother, a daughter, a housewife, and a wife who should take care of their husbands, children and parents as well. Charity Royall's patience in life makes her survive and bring her to happiness. Realizing the bitter life she faces, she actually demands the equal rights. She wants to convince others that she can do everything alone in order to prove that a man is not more important than her. Since the focus of the study is finding gender issues throughout her performance in the novel, then the writer found that it will be suitable to apply new criticism approach.

1.2. Statement of the Problems

Based on the background posed above, *Summer* is worth to be analyzed, particularly the characters throughout the following statements of the problems:

1. How is the characterization of Charity Royall as the main character portrayed in the novel?
2. What are the gender issues experienced by Charity depicted in Edith Wharton's *Summer*?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

The aims of this paper are to describe the characters of the main character, Charity Royall, and to reveal issue that might have tendency of gender inequality portrayed through the main character, Charity Royall. In order to achieve the objective, there are two points that need to be considered. Firstly, this study aims to describe the condition of the main character, Charity Royall, as presented in Edith Wharton's *Summer*. Second is to analyze the issue that might have tendency of gender inequality through the main character's conflicts that occurs in the story.

1.4. Significance of the Study

This study gives benefit to the readers in understanding about the character and gender issue portrayed the main character which occurs in novel. By analyzing the character and gender issues portrayed the main character represented in Edith Wharton's *Summer*, it is expected that the readers are able to know more about the existence of male assessment in determining women's standard performance. Hence, it is critical to understand that those issues have certain effects in the main character's life.

This study also gives benefits for the writer as a researcher to understand and provide more knowledge about new criticism theory. This study may also give benefits to future researchers who conduct studies on the characterization or on *Summer*, by providing preliminary study on new criticism. This study may take readers realize that one's right is not based on the gender or belief and make them more aware that all people are born free and equal.

In addition, this study is also meant to give contribution towards the study of Literature, particularly in English Department of The Faculty of Humanities of Airlangga University in the case of new criticism theory application.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

The writer gives scope and limitation of the study in order to stay on track in doing this analysis. This study focuses on the main character, Charity Royall, in the novel *Summer*. Women's struggle to gain equal and fair treatments in the society is the issue of human being, the issue of men and women. The analysis is performed through the mining of the sources which are internet information, library research, and also the primary source, "*Summer*".

1.6. Theoretical Background

The thesis is intended to analyze the main character of *Summer* novel deeper in order to cope with her problems. The writer focus the analysis into the characterization in order to know deeper about character, which can be noticed from several ways: showing character appearance, displaying character's actions, revealing character's thought, letting the character speak, and knowing the character from other's reaction toward the character. However, the writer focuses mainly on Charity Royall's character. The thesis is intended to analyze the main character in the novel *Summer* in order to cope with her problems. The thesis writer uses new criticism to analyze the novel since this theory is considered to be the most suitable theory to analyze the text. One most essential thing in literary work is the analysis of the intrinsic elements which consist of theme, characterization, setting, and plot. Here the thesis writer focuses on two intrinsic

elements which are characterization in order to describe how the main character portrayed in the novel, and plot in order to analyze conflict happened in the novel.

The writer decides to use the intrinsic approach to analyze the novel since it concerns with the literary elements of the novel. Later, the writer will analyze how the conflict happened in the story. Therefore, the most appropriate theory in analyzing the problems is New Criticism. The writer also uses new criticism theory in order to see the development of the main character deeper. While the gender inequality discussed using proper related source. Thus, declares gender inequality understand as the matter that responsible to destabilized women's position in power and roles in society, and men superiority.

1.7. Method of the Study

In the process of writing, the writer uses library and online research. This research is done by collecting data from various books, articles, critics, reviews and other materials from both library and internet which can be used to support the analysis. Those materials include the main source of the analysis that is novel and other information that supports the novel itself. However, the main source used for the study is the literary work itself, in this case is *Summer* by Edith Wharton, whereas the other sources are used for supporting the study. In advanced the theory of New Criticism, proposed by Lois Tyson, considered the most proper theory to analyzethe complications in the novel, since it applies intrinsic approach focused in the component inside the novel such character, setting and plot. It is estimated that Tyson's theory will help in analyzing the character, setting and plot confined within the issues presented in *Summer*. Moreover, some sources dealing

with the literary theories and approaches are also used in the analysis of Edith Wharton's *Summer*.

The method used is descriptive analysis. In analyzing the data, the thesis writer use descriptive method of analysis. Based on Tyson, the descriptive analysis may consist in organizing the clarification for the purpose to surface any matter using rationalist rules of logic (Tyson 101). This method is considered suitable to be applied in the analysis because it supports properly the description of the topic which is going to be analyzed/discussed. This method is applied base on the work itself and supported by other information concerning with this work. In this case, it is also used to describe the characterization of Charity Royall as the main character and also other character that related with the main character. The quotations in the genuine forms are provided to confirm and support the analysis.

1.8. Definition of Key Terms

The definition of terms is presented in order to avoid misunderstanding. There are some definitions that are defined.

Characterization : A way which authors usually use to give clues or hints about the characteristics of their fictional beings.

Character : the person represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the readers as being endowed with particular moral, dispositional, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the person say.

Gender : refers to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female and the relationships between

women and men and girls and boys, as well as the relations between women and those between men.

Plot : the pattern of events or main story in a narrative or drama.

Conflict : a struggle between two or more forces that creates a tension that must be resolved (Shaw 79).

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE RIVIEW