

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Adultery from time to time is still an interesting topic to discuss. Adultery is a way to say about human fallacy in running the commitment about marriage. In most societies, it is considered as a moral decadency, a phenomenon of human incapability in ordering their life in accordance with the norms of the society and religion.

In The American Peoples Encyclopedia, it is stated that adultery is voluntary sexual intercourse by a married person with a partner outside the marriage. Most societies have been concerned with adultery, treating it variously as a crime, a moral wrong, a private matter, or a threat to family stability. Prohibitions or taboos against adultery, written or customary, constitute part of marriage code of every society. Indeed, adultery seems to be as universal, and in some instance as common as marriage (p. 1182)

Madame Bovary is a novel by Gustave Flaubert, a French writer. It depicted unfulfilled dreams of the Norman bourgeoisie, Emma Bovary. The adultery as depicted in Flaubert's Madame Bovary was interesting because from the fallacy of doing adultery, she ultimately had to suffer and commit suicide. The adultery began as Emma Bovary had a sentimental tendency towards her dreams against realities she had to face. She was having a

neurotic pattern, that is another way to say that she only picked something just to dropped it. She always longed for something beyond her reach and capability. She always got bored with everything she had. The tendency towards the neurotic pattern can be traced from the childhood habit. She was a young woman married to a dull country doctor and possessed a sensual romantic longings, took a lover, deserted by him; took a second lover, fell hopelessly into debt, and finally poisoned herself.

The realistic description of the society of Flaubert's time caused the author and the publisher to be considered irreligious and immoral. Despite the judgement at that time the book became very popular because it contained some realities of bourgeoisie society where Flaubert lived.

Rene Wellek in World Masterpieces Vol. 2 considered Madame Bovary as one of the finest realistic novels because of its congruity with everyday life. The final greatness of Flaubert's realism lies in the manner in which he is able to capture the dullness of the middle class people without making his novel dull. Flaubert was intent that every aspect of his novel would ring true to life. When the book was eventually published in serial forms in The Revue de Paris, its realism was such that all the young women in Normandy saw themselves as Emma Bovary, and all the chemist in Normandy took exception to Homais. In revealing the realistic description, Flaubert uses some symbolism and irony in which it will make the story telling smoother and more interesting.

exaggeration, Flaubert is believed to be the best of many other realists (p. 656). **Allan Russel** in the Introduction of **Madame Bovary** in which he ever translated the book, said that it is simple tragedy within the constricting limits of a bourgeoisie society with its priest and its chemist, its agricultural show, and its incurable 'bourgeoisiedom' (1950:6).

B. Statement of the Problem

The discussion of Emma Bovary's adultery can be traced from the background of her childhood, her neighbourhood, the bourgeoisie society she lived in, and the psychological conflicts to deal with other characters, as well as the way she handled her neurotic pattern and denial toward the reality.

The background of her childhood, such as her education, the love she got from her surrounding will have the contribution toward her psychological conflicts. The way bourgeoisie society treated her and responded to her existence will be related to the habit of taking some debts and eventually committing suicide.

Based on the problems above, the statement of the problem can be formulated as :

1. How did the contributions of Emma Bovary's bourgeoisie society affect her characters in general and her adultery in particular ?
2. How did Emma Bovary's character develop that she fell into adultery and suicide eventually ?

C. Objective of The Study

One of the objective of the study is to relate the conditions of Emma Bovary psychological problem that made her committ adultery and terminating her own life. This study will try to find out the psychological conflicts such as the neurotic pattern that made her just pick something only to drop it, and the denial toward the reality that made her always seeking things as beautiful as everything she had in her imaginations. The analysis tends to connect the failure of reaching everything she desired that will be reasonable enough for her to commit suicide.

The study also meant to relate how the boredom in living in bourgeoisie society will influence her psychological condition. It will be shown that it was her psychological disorder that caused her to commit adultery and suicide; it will be related with the problem she faced in living in the bourgeoisie society.

D. Significance of The Study

The impact of Emma Bovary's adultery is expected to be able to give some contributions for the readers in learning about the existence of human beings through this literary work.

The analysis of Emma Bovary's adultery perhaps was only one of the examples about the human life fallacy. If we look at Emma Bovary's personality, her neurotic pattern and denial could be the excuse of why she

committed the unhonorable action. Sure, adultery is not the right thing to do; but we, the human being, might think the reason behind the action and eventually should find a way to overcome the failure in our life.

From the aspects of adultery derived by this literary work, the readers are expected to gain some significant value about what is wrong and what is right to do. Finally, conducting a research on a literary work such as this, the writer hopes that the result, no matter how limited it might be, will give contribution to the world of knowledge in general and the world of literature in particular.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Study

The analysis of the characters is limited in finding out how the contributions of minor characters toward the main character that has relation to the adultery. The characterisations of those minor characters that far away from the discussion about adultery will be avoided. The analysis is mainly centre on Emma Bovary; supported by minor characters through the contrast and irony as Flaubert reveal the story in such a way.

The psychological approach that is used here is the approach only for the neurotic pattern and denial, especially the denial of her real world. Both of the instances finally leads her to commit suicide. The sociological approach is employed to emphasise the analysis of bourgeoisie society, in France, particularly in 19th century. However, the explanation of the society is not

revealed in detail; it is only quoted to show the similarity of important event that happen in the novel.

F. Theoretical Framework

Since the analysis deals with the bourgeoisie society in France in 19th century, the writer tends to use the **mimetic theory** because more or less the novel is a realistic description of the society at Flaubert's time.

The analysis of Madame Bovary will not be completed without discussing the intrinsic aspects of the novel. In order to achieve the best result, **the intrinsic approach** is employed. The understanding of intrinsic aspects will be much help to show what happen in Madame Bovary. The use of mimetic theory and intrinsic approach is very important to find out that what happen in the novel is the mirror of what happen in society.

The psychological approach is also needed to support the analysis of the psychological conflicts of the characters, particularly the neurotic pattern and denial of Emma Bovary. **The sociological approach** is employed to support the mimetic theory in analysing the society in France during 19th century.

G. Method of the Study

In the process of writing this thesis, especially the writer is dealing with the works of fiction, the writer must collect and find materials and data to

make a proper analysis. Therefore, the writer is using the library research. A library research is a process of finding information which are useful in helping the writer to direct the research. The writer collects data and information from various books, articles, encyclopaedias, and all kinds of related materials. This is also what the writer does concerning materials and data for the literary theories and approaches (Komaruddin 18).

The descriptive analysis is used to depict the problem through dialogues, events, and actions. The application of this methods is based on the work itself and supported by the information about this work (Komaruddin 18).

H. Definition of Key Terms

In order to comprehend the study, there are some notions that need to be clarified such as :

Adultery :

Voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and somebody who is not that person's husband or wife.

Bourgeoisie :

Middle class, especially those who own the property embracing merchants, entrepreneurs, and other townsmen who derive income from commercial and industrial enterprises.

(Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary of Current English, A.S. Hornby

Oxford University Press, 1989)

