

Abstract

This study examines the formal elements within a literary work which is *The Virgin Suicides* novel written by Jeffrey Eugenides. The formal elements that are examined in this study are setting, conflict and characterization of the main character; Mrs. Lisbon. Those formal elements are examined using New Criticism theory by some leading experts of the literary criticism field; Richard Gill, Renee Wellek and certain other experts. By examining setting of *The Virgin Suicides*, conflicts experienced by Mrs. Lisbon and the characterization of Mrs. Lisbon, it is expected that the readers will be able to know how the setting sets the conflicts and how the conflicts shape Mrs. Lisbon's characterization. As the first step of analysis, the writer will examine the setting of place and time in the novel which lead Mrs. Lisbon into several conflicts. The next step will be examining the internal and external conflicts that faced by Mrs. Lisbon. Revealing the conflicts lets us understand the characterization of Mrs. Lisbon and generate the finding of this study. According to the analysis, we can find that those formal elements play the major role in revealing Mrs. Lisbon's fear of modernity as the grand theme of this study.

Key Terms: *fear, society, setting, conflict, character, characterization.*

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION