

Roberts and Henry E. Jacobs. These men cite in their book that :

Imaginative literature, which we call simply literature, refers to written (and also spoken) composition designed to tell stories, dramatize situations, and reveal thoughts and emotions and also, more importantly, to interest, entertain, stimulate, broaden, and ennoble readers. (1989:01).

Imaginative literature has numerous genres. Among them there are three common major genres called prose fiction, poetry and drama. Prose fiction includes some kinds of composition such as novels and short stories. These works generally focus on one or few major characters who undergo some kind of change as they meet other character or deal with problems or difficulties in their lives (Roberts, 1989:02).

The Secret Agent is an example of novels. It is the work of Joseph Conrad. He is known as a

British author although he originally comes from Poland. He has produced great literary works which have been published and sold all over the world. *Heart of Darkness* is one example of his works which has gained a lot of public's attentions.

Conrad's works contain various kinds of subjects. One source mentions that in Conrad's writing we see a combination of nineteenth-century and twentieth century preoccupations; he stands at the intersection of the late Victorian and the early modernist cultural phases; he is both romantic and anti-romantic, both conservative and subversive. Morally and politically, psychologically and philosophically, he can be a probing and challenging writer; yet he can also be, on occasion, embarrassingly conventional (Watts, 1982:46). What the source has said shows that Conrad is indeed a complex person. No wonder his works are complex as well.

The Secret Agent also contains complex

subjects. It is in a way political, philosophical and also psychological. It even involves moral values, too. However, the writer of the thesis is only interested in exploring one of the psychological matters presented in the novel. It deals with the condition of Winnie, one of the major characters in the story.

Winnie is a wife of a secret agent who faces a lot of problems during her lifetime. She previously can handle the problems well but in one particular time she is no longer able to overcome the problems she has to face. It makes her fall into a deep sadness until she gets depressed. At this point Winnie's trait seems to change. In this case, the writer of the thesis is interested in knowing further about the depression undergone by Winnie, its causes and its development in the relation to her change of character.

In addition, the analysis the writer decides to do may connect to other aspects other than Winnie's psychological condition. It is due to the

fact that *The Secret Agent* contains complex subject. For example the analysis may include something which connects to a political action presented in the story. It is possible because in the story Winnie's husband is a secret agent so the aspect of his political job may be more or less related to whatever things and changes happen on Winnie. Besides, the involvement of other aspect is probably necessary because they may have influences on the major concern of the analysis.

Finally, it is important to stress once more that the focus of the analysis will only be on one psychological matter displayed in the novel. It is Winnie's depressed condition which marks a significant change of her character.

B. Statement of the Problems

1. What causes Winnie's depressed condition ?
2. Why the condition is able to make Winnie's character change ?

C. Objective of the Study

1. The study is made to look for the causes of Winnie's depressed condition as being described in Joseph Conrad's *The Secret Agent*.
2. The study is intended to seek the relationship between Winnie's depressed condition and the change of Winnie's character. In other words it is proposed to find out the reasons of why the condition is able to make Winnie's character change.

D. Significance of the Study

The analysis is accomplished as an attempt to explore a psychological phenomenon that is found in a novel entitled *The Secret Agent* by an outstanding author, Joseph Conrad. Moreover it is also used as a case study in order to know the application of the phenomenon in a literary work so that it will be found how the literary elements are able to support the exploration of the phenomenon.

E. Scope and Limitation

The writer of the thesis is willing to concentrate only on Winnie's depressed condition that marks the change of her character. Therefore, the main concern of the analysis will certainly be on Winnie's character and its development. The involvement of other aspects is possible as long as the aspects are able to give support needed in the analysis.

F. Theoretical Background

The theory the writer of the thesis decides to use is objective theory. It states that an analysis has to be based on the work itself. Since the work is a novel so it is the novel itself which becomes the only source to be explored in the analysis. In other words, all the exploration matters must take 'The Secret Agent' as its single point of reference.

As the subject of the thesis is 'Winnie's depressed condition which marks the change of her

character', it is important to note that in this analysis the phenomenon described in the title will only be portrayed through the content of the novel itself without being concerned with any external substances like the author, the reader and the world outside the work. Therefore, the intrinsic approach is considered suitable in accompanying the objective theory. By using this approach the analysis will be lead to explain the subject matter with the help of the intrinsic aspects. Here, character, plot and setting are three intrinsic aspects which are chosen.

Finally, the objective theory and the intrinsic approach will be supported by a psychological background. It is meant to give a scientific assistance for the analysis. By having the objective theory, the intrinsic approach and the psychological background to sustain the thesis, the analysis done will be complete.

G. Method of the Study

The method that will be used by the writer of the thesis is library research. The main source is the book itself. Then it will be supported by the help of the relevant references. In order to make a complete analysis the writer of the thesis intends to use descriptive explanation as well. It is meant to give descriptive explanation of the problem through dialogues, events and action of the story.

H. Definition of Key Terms

Depression :

a form of deep sadness that arises the feeling of loneliness and helplessness which is reflected through behaviour and conduct.

Degenerate :

an adjective that refers to a person who is regarded as mental retarded or having lost qualities considered normal

and desirable. A degenerate person is usually odd in character and behaviour although his appearance may be deceptive.

Excitement :

an act of disorderly conduct. It is Winnie's common term for her brother's emotionally troubled when hearing what he accepts as provoking news or seeing what he judges as cruel actions.