

CHAPTER III
DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS
OF THE MAIN CHARACTER

This study is going to analyze the personality of the main character. It can be identified through the main character's range, speech, appearance, and activity.

The description of personality of the main character actually depicts the certain philosophy called transcendentalism. In this case, in studying the personality of the main character as depicted in the story, the writer stresses on analysing his personality which can show that philosophy clearly.

III.1 THE RANGE OF THE MAIN CHARACTER

(THE MAIN CHARACTER IS THE DEEP CHARACTER)

Richard Gill explains in his book entitled *Mastering English Literature* that: "the word range refers to the fulness, or otherwise, which a character is given." Characters in a story can be divided into two, those are deep character and close character. Deep character is described in many ways. His or her speech is reported, his or her thought is revealed, and his or her feeling and need are shown.

In *One Day In The Afternoon Of The World*, William

Saroyan creates Yep Muscat, the main character of the story in a wonderfully rich way. Saroyan views him from outside. Those are his speech reported, his thought revealed, and his feeling shown. Yep Muscat has been presented in these different ways, that's why he can be said as rich and deep character in the story. It is important to know what the main character is like by analysing the range of the main character since it can reveal the personality of the main character.

III.1.1 The Main Character's Thought

This is how the story depicts the wise thought of Yep Muscat to support him to face the problem in his life. He gets a big problem that is his ex-wife, Laura has divorced him and has taken the children to New York while he is living in San Francisco. Actually, he still loves them. That's why, this separation makes him sad.

None of the story tells that the separation which has made him sad doesn't make his life broke. He gets a meaningful advice about his problem from himself. So, he can face the problem easily eventhough the first time he gets it, he feels unhappy. He can even solve the problem by himself. It seems that the divorce has never happened in his life.

How the story describes the way he advices himself about the problem he experianced wisely can be seen from

the following accidents.

III.1.1.1 His Thought About His Problem

He thinks intuitively about the problem he has to face. He realizes then that it is his fate. He doesn't have authority to deny it so he has to accept this bitter fact.

Well, he thought, that's the story, that's the plot, those are the characters, that's the time, that's the place, that's the atmosphere, that's the mood, that's the climax, and there is nothing I can do about any of it, ... (p.234).

He doesn't want to run from the reality which he has to face. Whatever a fact it is. He realizes that he has to accept this bitter fact since it is unnecessary to feel disappointed about the destiny which he gets.

If everything had turned out the way I believed for so many years it might, that might have been better, but there's no telling, and this is the way it did turn out, or at any rate the way it's turning out, I won't knock it (p.235).

Those are how intuition advises himself to face the bitter fact frankly. That's why, he can erase unhappy feeling. He is also able to accept this unnice fact in his life that is the divorce.

III.1.1.2 His Thought about the Meaning of Love

He thinks about his love feeling to his separate family intuitively so he gets a wise understanding about the meaning of love in this life.

I love Rosey, a girl. I love Van, a boy. I love their mother, a woman. I love them because I know them. It was only by accident that I came to know them, but I don't care about that, because I've got nothing against accidents, either. Rosey's my daughter and Van's my son and Laura's their mother, so loving them is easy. So I love everybody else, too (p.235).

He realizes that the feeling of love is the natural feeling in human being. Human love feeling to human's family and another one can make this life peace and harmony. That's why, it doesn't has to be deleted even by the divorce.

Those are the meaningful of his thought about the role of love in this life. It supports him not to hate her and forget his separate family. He even loves his separate family eventhough the separation has occured. It doesn't decrease his love feeling to them.

His wise thought as described above supports him to give attention and share love to his separate family. The later analysing about his feeling to his separate family, his speech, the way he speaks to his separate

family, his appearance, and the way he treats his separate family can support the previous statement that is he still loves his separate family eventhough the separation has occurred.

III.1.2 The Main Character's Speech

This is how the story reports the meaningful of his speech. It is his wise advice to his old Armenian friend whose name is Zak. It happens when Zak is really sad and nearly broke to face the problem in his life. It is his wife divorces him and doesn't permit her son to live with him. It hearts him since he really loves her son and wants to be his father.

Briefly, he advices that what Zak should do is to share love to his separate family. Eventhough they aren't his family anymore, but they should try to be a family, that's the same. Since everybody in a family needs everybody else, that's why, it is unnecessary to hate everybody else. If he can't share love to everybody else in this life, so his life will be meaningless. It will make him die.

Yes, he does. He needs both of them. A daughter needs both of them, too. A mother needs her son, too. And so does a father. They all need one another. And when they're not a family, they have all got to try to be a family just the same. If one

doesn't help, then the others have got to work harder. Everybody in a family needs everybody else, even the ones who don't care about the family, or think they don't, or can't, or won't, or want others to do their caring for them. It's not easy, Zak, but it's not impossible, either... All you can do with dignity is love them. All the different kinds of mothers and fathers and son and daughters. You don't really decide to do anything, Zak. You find that you don't have any choice. You love, or you don't. That's what it comes to. It reduces itself to that. If you don't love, you don't necessarily hate, but if you don't love, you've got to die. You've only got to stop loving, and you start to die. None of it's decided. All of it just is, one way or the other (p.240-241).

What he advises to Zak has the same meaning with his wise thought as described before. His wise thought advises himself to face his problem frankly and to love his separate family in order to make his life meaningful. So does his advice to his friend as quoted above. From this statements, it can show that his speech supports his wise thought which encourages him to keep his love to his separate family.

III.1.3 The Main Character's Feeling

In this part, the writer will analyze the main character's feeling to his separate family as described in the story. From this analysis it can be known his personality.

III.1.3.1 His Feeling to His Separate Family

In this part, the writer likes to show his feeling describing his deep love feeling to his separate family. His wise thought as described above advises himself about the meaning of love in this life. It makes him not to hate his ex-wife who has divorced him and supports him to love them eventhough the separation has occurred. That's why, he just has love feeling to them although the divorce has occurred and they have separated for many months.

Those statements can be shown from the following accident. The story tells that the main character visits his separate family living in New York. Laura shows him the new apartment in which they lives. He notices that they lives happily although he doesn't beside them since the separation has occurred. Their happy life makes him sad. He really loves and wants to make them happy. He feels that his attention will not be necessary anymore to them since they have lived happily without him. That's why the useless feeling appears in his mind: "They're

okay. Their mother's okay. Everything's okay." All the same, a feeling of failure and uselessness came over him as he walked (p.32).

His useless feeling as quoted above shows that he loves them much. The separation doesn't make him ignore his separate family. He even really wants to make them happy by giving attention and share love. Yet, when he knows that they live happily in New York, his useless feeling appears in his mind since he thinks that his love to them will be unnecessary anymore.

Those description about the main character's feeling to his separate family shows that he is good father and husband since he still wants to make them happy eventhough the separation has occured.

III.1.3.2 His Feeling to His Children

In this section, the witer will analyze the main character's feeling to his children.

The story tells that he can erase those useless feeling since he can make them happy by his attention as long as he stays in New York. He invites the children to have dinner, go to the theatre, and watch the film they like. A quotation below describes his happy feeling as he is beside the children. "But being with his kids, having them beside him, made it wonderful" (p.208). This quotation shows that he still has love feeling to the children

although he has not met them for many months.

III.1.3.3 His Feeling to His Ex-Wife

In this part, the writer is going to analyze the main character's feeling to his ex-wife whose name is Laura.

The story tells that his ex-wife has divorced him. This bitter fact has made him sad. Meanwhile, he doesn't a bad feeling to her. He even loves her and likes to give his good attention to her. It can be seen from the following quotation stating that he loves her. "Do you love a little? A lot. A great big lot? Yes" (p.222). It happens when she asks him if he still loves him. He answers nicely that he loves her much.

His wise thought, meaningful of speech, big love feeling and attention to his separate family which have been described above can show the personality of the main character. He is wise, good, clever, responsible man. He has a stable emotion, a firm heart, a strong confidence. It depicts that Yep Muscat is a deep character.

III.2 HOW THE MAIN CHARACTER SPEAKS

Gill has explained in his book entitled *Mastering English Literature* that the way a character speaks expresses that character. It means the personality of a character can be known by describing the way a character

speaks.

William Saroyan gives the main character a specific way of speaking that a few sentences are all that is necessary for the main character to be established. It is also necessary to show the main character personality. A quotation below describes how Yep Muscat, the main character of the story, speaks.

III.2.1 The Way the Main Character Speaks to His Son

In this part, the writer will show a certain event that the main character talks to his son. It is important to know the way the main character speaks to reveal his personality. She takes their conversation when his son whose name is Van gets headache after watching the baseball game, he calls him to know what makes him sick. He says:

Well, this is what it comes to, Van. You love the game and you love your team, and eat hot dogs and drink soda pop, and you're polite to Kitty about her love for the Yanks, and you understand the values of the game, and so with all of that kind of intensity, and the hot dogs and the soda pop, you get a little sick-but it's nothing. How's your head feel now?" (p.126).

Analysing the way the main character speaks to his son as quoted above, it can be known that he speaks to

his son warmly. He listens to his son speaking about what he has eaten, drunk, and his feeling to his favourite team when he watched the base ball game carefully. He then makes a conclusion that soda pop, hot dogs, his disappointed feeling to his favourite team which lose, those make him sick. He says to his son about his conclusion politely. He talks much to him. He talk nicely to him. Through this conversation his son's headache gone. This conversation shows how big his attention to his son eventhough they have not met for long time because of the divorce.

Those description shows that the separation among them doesn't decrease his love feeling to him. He takes attention to his son when he knows that he is sick. He talks to him pleasurely. He doesn't feel to be disturbed by his ex-wife's call to inform that his son is sick. He even listen to his son's speech patiently. It describes that he is good father who can ignore his son just because the separation among them.

III.2.2 The Way the Main Character Speaks to His Daughter

In this part, the writer will show the way the main character speaks to his daughter whose name is Rosey. It can reveal his personality. She takes a certain occasion of his speech to his daughter. It happens when he calls his daughter to ask her condition as he comes in New

York. He makes an interesting joking at that moment. She is really glad by his calling.

Oh, there are any number of other ways. The Cencus Bureau made a report on the matter of names four or five years ago. There was a family somewhere in Alabama-the father, who was a farmer, and the mother, who kept house, and six or seven boys and girls. Every ten years or so the Cencus Bureau counts the people in the nation-by name. About a hundred and seventy-five million people, one by one, every one of them with at least a first name and a last name, but most of them with a middle name, too. Some of them with two or three or four middle names. But this family in Alabama-they were different. When the man from the Cencus Bureau visited the family, the father was out on the farm working. The mother was sitting in a rocking chair, rocking, with the youngest baby sitting on her lap. There was another baby crawling on the floor. Another was playing in the yard. Another was in a tree. Another was with his father. And the oldest boy was in the Navy. The mother was asked to give the names of her children. She said, 'Well, this here's the lap baby. That one over there's the floor baby. The one outside, he's the yard baby. The one who likes to climb trees, he's the tree

baby. The boy who follows his father around wherever he goes, he's Papa's baby. And the one in the Navy, he's Navy baby' (p.77).

From the quotation above, it can be known that he likes to create a happy condition by making a joke by which he wants to make her daughter happy. It shows the way he speaks to his daughter, that is he speaks kindly to her.

Eventhough the separation has occurred, but his love to his daughter has never changed. It can be proven by the way he speaks to his daughter. He speaks to her nicely even he likes to make a joke to her when he calls her.

Those description shows that he is a good father. The separation which has happened for long time doesn't make him ignore her daughter. He still keeps his love to her. When he comes to New York, he doesn't forget to call her beloved daughter. He even makes an interesting joke which makes her happy by his calling.

III.2.3 The Way the Main Character Speaks to His Ex-Wife

In this section, the writer will analyze the personality of the main character through the way he speaks to his ex-wife whose name is Laura. She has divorced him and made him sad because of the divorce. She has separated him from his beloved children. Yet, none of the story

tells that he hates her or treats her badly. He has never spoken rudely to her. It can be shown by the following accident.

When Laura calls him, he receives her call and he speaks to her kindly. She asks him what for he flies to New York. He answers calmly: "...I'm here to talk business with somebody who wants me to write a play, and I've got a little something coming up on television" (p.8).

She even likes to talk much with him about herself, the children, her good friend whose name is Kitty. This statement shows that he listens to her speaking carefully and he speaks to her nicely. That's why, she likes to talk much with him. "They talked a long time because she always liked talking on the phone, and there was a great deal she wanted to tell him about herself and her friends and Van and Rosey" (p.8).

Those description reveals that he is good man who is not easy to hate everyone else eventhough to one who has divorced him and made him sad. It is because his intuition has advised him that it is unnecessary to hate everyone else.