

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Freedom of choice is expected by every people. Since they live their own life, it is entirely their right to choose what they are going to do or what they are going to decide for the sake of themselves. But there is also a fact that not all human beings can do this. There are several considerations they have to think of before making decisions. There are effects they have to take which relate to their decisions. There are also some aspects or background which affects them and influences their way of facing the life and solve their problems. These aspects can be seen in true life, but sometimes it can also be seen from literary work. One of some novels written by Radclyffe Hall reflects this phenomenon.

Radclyffe Hall was known as one of the remarkable English writers. She began her career by writing verses, which were collected into four volumes of poetry, *The Blind Ploughman*. Even one of her best poems was set to music by Conigsty Clarke. She published her first two novels, *The Forge* and *The Unlit Lamp* in 1924. Two years later she published *Adam's Breed* which made her won Prix Femina and James Tait Memorial Prize for fiction in 1927. Her best-known book was *The Well of Loneliness* which was published in 1928. It created a scandal and was banned for a time in Britain for its treatment of lesbianism. *The Unlit Lamp* was written before *The Forge*. It is often compared to *The Well of Loneliness*, but it is much better written. Both suffer in their accounts of women's love for each other. (1981:1)

The Unlit Lamp is a story about Joan Ogden, who grows up, and grows old in a little town on the South Coast of England. Her mother, Mary Ogden, whom she loves very deeply, and an affectionate governess, Elizabeth, with whom she shares her future dreams, are the two people who have great influence on her. Both want to have her companion, and they are not prepared to share her. Their struggle to possess her affects and shapes her entire life.

Viewing the title, *The Unlit Lamp*, the writer has certain curiosity. The word *unlit* here, possibly means the situation of not being turned on, and *lamp*, is a word means the source of light. The title plays a big role, for it might express the content or the extract of the novel. Compared to the story, the *lamp* probably represents Joan Ogden herself, or something more abstract like future for instance. It does not block the possibility that the *lamp* might represent someone or something else. Joan gets the spotlight mainly because she is the main character. With the potentials that she has, she should have been a more useful person for others, considered from her wish to be a doctor. If it is true that Joan Ogden is really meant the *lamp*, there is another question about the reason of the *lamp* to stay *unlit*, for it is supposed to give the light. Furthermore, it would also be interesting to find out whether there has been someone who tried to light this *lamp* up or not, and also why this attempt goes fruitless. By looking at the flow of the story, it will later can be found whether this presumption is reasonable or not. Further observation deals with the novel will lead to the conclusion if the title really means something as the writer has assumed before.

The Unlit Lamp is a very interesting novel to discuss. The main character here, Joan Ogden, is a complicated person. She is not an ordinary person, a typical little girl

who lives in a small town, who mostly does not have expectation to gain something incredible in her life. She has the potential to be successful. She has the great talent and intellectual ability to follow her dreams. Her governess, Elizabeth, is the right person to light her fire, to help her to be what she really wants, and her mother, is a demanding person who does not want to share her with anyone else. Later, Joan finds the fact that both her younger sister and her father dies too soon. She is the only one left with her mother. Her conflicts begin when she has to choose between accompanying her lonely mother, and moving away with Elizabeth to continue her study. She also has to make an important decision about getting married to the man who really loves her.

The writer is interested to make a deeper study about the main character here, Joan Ogden. The writer intends to find out the family background which influences the main character. Her relationship with the other family members, with other people around her, will lead to the understanding about the main character herself.

In the discussion, the writer will use intrinsic elements such as: character, plot and setting. These elements are chosen because they are representative enough to show the wholeness of the work. The extrinsic elements that the writer will use are psychological and sociological approach. The process of her making decisions can be seen by psychological approach. This approach will give the explanation about her process of mind, on how she would make decisions. The life of the main character, the environment she lives in, and how it influences her, will be shown by sociological approach.

B. Statement of the Problem

After reading the novel, there are several problems which arise, and which the writer intends to observe and analyze:

1. How does the family background of the main character influence her?
2. How does the main character respond as seen from psychological and sociological view points?

C. Objective of the Study

The objective of making the observation about the work are:

1. To have a deeper understanding about the way the family background of the main character influences her.
2. To observe about the responses of the main character as seen from psychological and sociological view points.

D. Significance of the Study

The writer is interested in making analysis about the main character in the story. The writer hopes that by observing the main character, she would have more understanding to make the analysis. She would like to know about certain situation in the story, the conflicts which appear, the struggle, and how the main character resolve. The study will convey these matters and answer all the questions which are specified by the writer.

By making a study about the main character in this novel, the writer hopes to obtain more knowledge about literary work, especially the novel that the writer has

chosen to discuss. The study would give contribution for the learning about the specific character of the novel. Moreover, the study would develop the reader's outlook about life itself, especially about the way to face life and make decisions.

E. Scope and Limitation

Before starting to analyze, the writer would like to give the limitation, to keep the analysis on the intended tract. First, the writer would focus on the main character in the discussion. This will be related with the approaches that the writer would use. The writer wishes to know the effect of the main character's family background to her process of thinking and making decisions. The writer would use intrinsic elements, which are character, plot and setting. Beside that, the writer would also use extrinsic elements, which are psychological and sociological approaches.

The discussion will explain more on the topics above. By keeping the study in this tract, hopefully the discussion will not turn out to another unnecessary topic.

F. Theoretical Background

As the writer said above, there would be some approaches which will be used. The writer will use intrinsic elements which are: character, plot and setting. These elements will explain and interpret the literary work through the work itself, which would give more understanding for the reader about the story.

The writer would also use extrinsic elements which are psychological approach and sociological approaches. The psychological approach is used to understand the process of the main character in making her decisions. The writer will

use Abraham Maslow's humanistic psychology in analyzing the character through psychological aspect, because this approach is considered suitable to analyze the main character. The sociological approach is used to analyze the influence of the society she lives in. The writer will use Mead's theory to make the analysis using sociological approach.

G. Method of the Study

In working on her thesis, the writer makes research in some libraries, in order to collect books, articles, encyclopaedias, data, information and other printed materials which are needed to support the analysis of the problem; and also to get information from particular books which are dealing with the theories and approaches that will be used in the analysis.

The method used is descriptive analysis. The writer will apply descriptive explanation of the problems in the work through the dialogues, events and actions in the story itself. The analysis will also be supported by other information from particular books concerning the work.

H. Definition of Key Terms

In the analysis, there will be some important terms which the writer would use many times. In order to help the reader to understand, the writer will give guidance by defining these important key terms.

Dream: the object that the main character keeps in her mind. It is called a dream, compared to the fact that dream is not the truth, which is also similar to what the main character feels. This happens because of the unsupportive situation which makes it difficult or even almost impossible to achieve.

Future: the life than the main character tries to figure out, in which she hopes would be brighter than the life she lives in present time, with the freedom to choose her own way of life and become the person she wants to be.

Struggle: every attempt that the main character tries to support her purpose. It is described that she tries several ways to reach her goal which is to be a doctor. This is a struggle for she does not get the consent and support from her own family.

Wish: the main character's desire and willingness to reach her future, to pursue her dream, to be the complete human being.

CHAPTER II

THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK AND RELATED STUDY

