

CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Literature is a piece of writing which "expresses and communicates thoughts, feelings, and attitudes toward life by the medium of language", (Rees, 1973:19). Talking about literature means that people are dealing with a work of human being which represents the aspects of life. Literature should be able to pass on some feeling or idea that at once recognize as part of experience in life. Regarding this fact about literature, it is understandable that literature is significant in life because it "brings people into contact more closely with the real life. The use of literature is to help people toward a better understanding of themselves," (Rees, 1973:11)

There are several genres of literary works and one of them is novel. Novel that would be analyzed here is a form of literary work that is written as a serious imitation of reality; that means the problems and character depicts in the novel are taken from real life.

It is also the longest form of prose fiction in which one may find an extraordinary wide range of writing which enables the readers to catch more details about the story. Therefore, it results in an easier way to grasp and understand the real essence of the story itself.

The writer herself regards novel as a significant and complete literary form since in a novel the author is able to construct the impression of the implied significance. The author is able to provide a way that will lead readers to his or her intended purpose or message in writing a novel.

The imitation of reality pictured in a novel is not limited by an imitation of human being's life. Novel can also represent other life's aspects such as the life of a beast. This sort of novel gives us a chance to come into a "life" beyond "human life" that is experienced through fantasy or thrilling adventure of the beast's characters. To meet this purpose, a novel must be able to capture the story in a completely natural, life like way, and to depict all the details in a scene which close to this world in order to invite the readers to be deeply involved in this work.

Jack London (1876-1916) as the author of the novel is going to be discussed in this thesis. He is one of the most significant naturalists novelists America had ever had.

During his lifetime, Jack London has completed twenty novellas and novels. His most famous and perhaps his masterpiece was *The Call Of The Wild*. This title is in the spirit of his life and writing. It is considered as the product of a constellation of experiences, readings, and creative experimentation in London's own life especially in correlation with his adventures in the wild Klondike during his finding of gold.

The novel itself has the trade mark that is of London's, "the perennial American dream of escape and freedom associated with the natural world," (Watson, 1983 ; 40) In the main character of *The Call Of The Wild*, Buck, a superdog which is the main character, "must discover in himself and in the wilderness, the primordial sensations that has lead him to reject the conventions of civilized life," (Watson, 1983 ; 40).

As this novel begins, Buck lives in society under the protection of a benevolent master. He undertakes a journey away from that sheltered world, encountering in

his travels several varieties of civilized virtue and folly. Intermittently, however, "he feels the counterinfluence of the natural world and the anarchic impulse toward escape; and when he at the end is nearly adopted by another benevolent foster parent, he instead heeds the call of the wild and lights out for the territory," (Watson, 1983;40).

The writer is interested in *The Call Of The Wild* as the subject of her thesis because the novel itself is very touching and giving the writer an escape toward the world of fantasy and adventure of a wilderness world. The detailed description about the main character, Buck, the problems he faces and the background where this adventure takes place has given her the feelings of being involved with the character. In her own opinion, she thinks that this novel is a contribution for keen and critical readers to have a more understanding about an endless struggle in searching an existence.

Buck is very appropriate to be considered as a fighter character. Encountering good treatment under the benevolent family on the early stage of his life, however, does not make him be a mere pampered house dog. His life suddenly changes when he is compelled into the

brutal world. Actually, the wilderness of this world almost kills him. Yet, in spite of giving up to the life, by experiencing so many 'nightmares' he keeps trying and learning in order to defend his dignity.

With the death of his last and most beloved master, he is able to make his own decision. He releases the bound of man's rules -- the rule of civilized life -- that has conducted his life for a long time. On the contrary, he heeds the call of the wild, the calling comes from his primordial brothers and nature. He returns to nature to fulfill the need of existence, to be a hero in his own world, nature.

1.2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Having read *The Call Of The Wild*, there are some interesting questions that arise in connection with this novel.

1. How do Buck's character and background support the emergence of primordial instinct that lead him to reject the conventions of civilized life ?
2. What kinds of conflict happen around Buck that effect his choice to follow the call of the wild ?
3. How do the conflicts end ?

1.3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

Relating with the statements of the problem, the objective of the study are :

1. To reveal the character and background of Buck, the main character, that has contributed in the emergence of primordial instinct that lead him to reject the conventions of civilized life.
2. To reveal the kinds of conflicts that happen around Buck that effects his choice to follow the call of the wild.
3. To reveal how the conflicts end and the solution chosed by the main character.

1.4. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The writer hopes that this thesis will give contribution to the world of knowledge in general and the world of literature in particular. Also, it is hoped that this work will contribute something in the study of literature especially in the English Departement, Universitas Airlangga.

At last, for the readers, for whom this work is purposed, it is hoped that they will get some valuable

teaching to broaden the knowledge and understanding about life and all related to it

1.5. SCOPE AND LIMITATION

This research is concentrated on the analysis of the emergence of primordial instinct that leads Buck to reject the conventions of civilized life.

To obtain this purpose, the writer limits the focus of attention on three elements respectively plot, characterization, and setting. The writer believes that they are considered to be representative enough as the main elements of the structure of the story in which they are interrelated to one another to express the wholeness of impression.

1.6. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

This thesis is concerned with the analysis of the emergence of primordial instinct that lead Buck to reject the conventions of civilized life. Actually, the writer limits the analysis to the characterization, setting, and plot which are parts of intrinsic aspects. Therefore, the writer decides to use the *intrinsic approach* since it

will make the analysis clearly explain and keep it from bending to another unrelated study.

To have a better explanation on the emergence of primordial instict, the writer is going to use the psychological approach to support the analysis.

1.7. METHOD OF THE STUDY

In the process of writing this thesis, the writer is using the library research . Since the writer is dealing with a work of fiction, therefore, the writer must collect and find materials and datas to make a proper analysis. "A library research is a process of finding informations which are useful in helping the writer to direct the research,"(Komaruddin, 1982 :18). The writer collects datas and information from various books, encyclopedias, articles, and other printed material dealing with Jack London's works especially *The Call Of The Wild*. This is also what the writer does concerning materials and datas for the literary theories and approaches.

Regarding the subject of the study, descriptive analysis is used. "The descriptive analysis is the descriptive explanation of the problems through

dialogues, events, and actions. This method applied based on the work itself and supported by other information about this work," (Komaruddin, 1982 :18)

1.8. DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Call of the wild (dealing with the title of this novel)

A desire to join with the life of the wilderness.

Call of The Wild

The Call of The Wild written by London depicts Buck's ancestor howling to surmon him to return to nature.

Civilized life :

The life which is bound to the conventions of man.

Instinct

behavioral pattern that are unlearned, uniform in expression, universal in species, (Mc Dougall, 1908)

Primordial instinct (the writer takes this term from

Watson's *The Novels of Jack London A Reappraisal*):

Instinct that has been sleeping for a long time under the certain conditions (easy life, protection, love). The emergence of this primordial instinct is stimulated by nature and human's treatments.

The law of club :

The created law of cruel masters in establishing the fear of chastisement among the dogs.

Rite of Passage :

Activities associated with the transition from one stage of life to the further stage. It deals closely with the development process of maturity.

1.9. ORGANIZATION OF THE PAPER

In composing this thesis , the writer divides this thesis into four chapters. The first chapter is Introduction which is divided into nine subchapters, namely the background of the study, the statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, theoretical background, method of the study, definition of key terms, and organization of the paper.

The second chapter is Theoretical Framework in which the writer will explain the theory and the approaches used in this analysis. In this chapter the writer is also explaining the reasons why this theory and approaches are significant in the analysis.

The third chapter is Analysis. This analysis is divided into two subchapters respectively the analysis through the intrinsic elements and the analysis of the emergence of primordial instinct of Buck in *The Call Of The Wild*. In the analysis of the intrinsic elements, the writer is making an elaborate analysis on character, plot, setting, and conflict. Then, in the analysis of the emergence of primordial instinct Of Buck In *The Call Of The Wild* the writer is trying to make a deeper analysis about the emergence of primordial instinct that is encountered by the main character.

The fourth chapter is Conclusion. The problems concerned with this thesis are going to be answered in this final chapter.

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK