

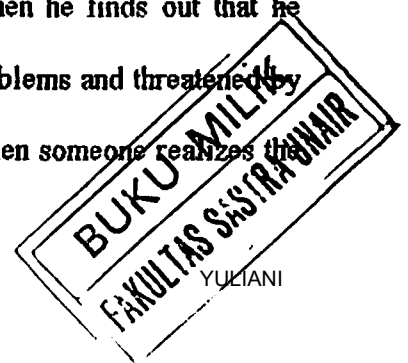
CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

As a member of society, a person has a role that has to be played such as being a parent, spouse, employee, supervisor, etc. He has codes, norms, or values that he has to obey. The obedience to the codes, norms and values will prove him as a good member of society. Everyone has a self-image which is in accord with his role he plays in the society. As a parent, one has the self-image as a parent; a spouse as a spouse; an employee as an employee, etc. The conglomeration of the self-image is included in the self-concept. It denotes the perception of what kind of person the man is. Self-concept often reflects how a man views himself through his various roles he plays in society in the relationship with other member of the society. Self-concept also includes the ideal-self. It is not only the perception of what kind of person the man is but also what he thinks he ought to be and would like to be (Njelle & Ziecler 489).

In fact, the self-ideal is very hard to be reached. In playing the role, a man has to face many problems that can prove him whether he is good or bad, weak or strong, brave or a coward person according to his self-concept. Those problems are experiences in his life. He could fail or succeed in overcoming the problem. Sometimes, reality is far different with imagination. Someone can perceive himself as the good person, but after he experiences something then he finds out that he misjudges himself. Everyone is always confronted with problems and threatened by experiences that are not in accord with his self-concept. When someone realizes the



incongruity between his self-concept and his experiences, this condition is called threat.

This is one of the examples that a man always faces conflicts ever since he is born. A baby needs some food but he can not utter it. Thus he cries. And then the mother comes and gives him milk. He stops crying. When he grows up, he finds that he has to learn everything concerning his life as a human being. His self-concept begins to form. He learns something either good or bad according the codes, values and norms that are accepted in his society. Later on, he will achieve his desire. But the life is very hard and he has to struggle for it. The various conflicts come and go in his life. His ability to face them is a proof that he is a successful person according to his society. The failure in life will teach him to be more mature. Some people say that experience is the best teacher. And a failure is a bridge to reach the success. These conflicts of life are faced by man from generation to generation -- from the first man was ever created to nowadays and even until the end of the world.

Conflict of human life is portrayed in the literature because literature is the portrayal of life. In R.J Rees' book, *English Literature: An Introduction to Foreign Readers*, stated that literature "holds the mirror up to nature". It defines that literature is reflecting some thoughts or feelings that readers recognize as being "true life" (6). Since literature illuminates some aspects of human life and behavior, literature may be viewed from one of these different aspects of life such as the religious, moral, social, psychological or philosophical aspect. There are three genres of literature. These are poetry, prose and play. Novel is one kind of

literature in prose form. Novel is a picture of a real life, a manner, and of the time in which it is written (Clara Reeve 85).

Returning to the discussion about conflict, it is one of the most important elements of a story. There is no story without the conflict in either physical or psychological problem. A psychological conflict concerning incongruity between self-concept and experience is caught by the author and he writes it as the central idea of his work. Because literary work is a kind of medium through which the phenomena of life are transmitted, thus, both the reader and the author can enjoy it.

Joseph Conrad is one of the twentieth century author who writes such kind of conflict in his novel *Lord Jim*. He is known as the writer of sea-stories. He has been acclaimed as the influential leader in the modernist movement, with his novels displaying a masterful narrative technique. This is one of the interesting thing in Conrad's work that he frequently applies the indirect narrative method through one of the character in his story. He uses the technique of employing a narrator through whom the readers come to learn the succession of events or development of the intrigue, thus enable the readers to follow the story. This is the so-called "witnesses-technique".

H.L. Mencken who proclaims Conrad as the pure realist, who rightly points to his constant effort "to make you hear, to make you feel, above all to make you see," acknowledges also that Conrad is " forever setting himself problems and forever coming to conclusions that leave them unsolved". He carried with him always a "guilt complex" -- his was the cleaved spirit, he was the foreigner who had deserted his own country , the alien speaking his inmost heart in another's tongue (Ann Jefferson & David Robey 547).

Joseph Conrad wrote forty-two fictions --eleven novels, a number of shorter novels such as *Typhoon* and *The Nigger of the Narcissus*, and several short stories. The most famous of Conrad works are *Heart of Darkness*, *Lord Jim*, *Nostramo*, and *the Secret Agent*. The individual separated from his social group is a central theme in all Conrad's fictions. In *Lord Jim* --the novel that is analyzed here-- he probes the mind of a good and ordinary young man who, in the moment of weakness, deserts his ship and its passengers. And it has made him cut off from his social group.

Jim always dreamed himself to be a hero in life at sea. That was his ideal-self. He perceives himself as the brave and unflinching hero who devotes his life to his duty., he jumped out to the sea when his ship was in danger. He her passengers and he saved time, he is afraid of death. The finding that he was a coward and also breaking the code of the sailor was a catastrophe in his life. He considered himself the bad person and he could not endure the life again. He decided to leave his world and moved to the remote land where nobody knew his past. In the time of his weakness again, he broke his responsibility due to the death of the chief's son who was also Jim's closest friend. This time, Jim was much more mature. He did not escape from his problem anymore. He had learnt that escape from the responsibility was useless. It would shadow his life wherever he went. He paid his friend's death by his. He deserved to die to keep Patusan people's respect and trust The hero of the story was dead by honor. The maturity of someone after enduring many problems and temptations is one of the interesting thing that can be taken from the story. Age and experiences should mature someone.

Joseph Conrad himself is used to furnish his stories with his own experiences during his seamanship career, especially in this novel, *Lord Jim*. Through the title *THE COMPARATIVE STUDY BETWEEN AUTHOR'S EXPERIENCES OF LIFE AND SOME ASPECTS OF LORD JIM TALE IN CONRAD'S LORD JIM*, the writer tries to analyze how far is the influence of the experience of the author toward the story he writes. This make the readers as if they hear or even see the accident by themselves and Conrad himself succeed to achieve his goal "to make you hear, to make you feel, and above all to make you see".

B STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Considering the background stated above, the analysis will be based on the following questions:

1. How does Conrad portray the character of Jim in his novel *Lord Jim*?
2. Conrad takes the true story of Jeddah accident as the plot of *Lord Jim*. How is the structure of the story of *Lord Jim*?
3. How does Conrad depict the setting of the story of *Lord Jim*?
4. How does Conrad's life?
5. How far is the similarity between Conrad own experience with the story of *Lord Jim*?

C. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

This analysis is aimed to find out what is laid beyond Jim's name. The title of the novel is *Lord Jim*. In the story it self, he is just called Jim when he is in the west. In the East, he is called *Lord Jim*. The word "lord" here derives from the

bravely. The maturity of Jim in undergoing his life is one of the significant things that can be taken from the story.

The analysis of Jim's story is expected to make the writer improve her ability to comprehend the human life. The story of Lord Jim can teach her how to live properly in society. A critic says that the nature of Jim's problem is significant even more now than in Conrad's time. Thus, the analysis of this story can make either the writer or the readers of the analysis to be able to understand life better.

The writing is also expected to improve the writer's ability to analyze literature better in the next assignment. It is also hopefully to be useful for further literary research concerning this novel.

E. SCOPE AND LIMITATION

Lord Jim is a story about Jim who in the moment of weakness deserts his ship and passengers. It causes the conflict in his life because he can not endure life without honor and respect from his society. Thus, the analysis will be centered on the plot and the characterization of the story as the most important elements that compose the whole story.

Additionally, setting and style of the author are also included to support the analysis. Setting can influence the characters. Conrad's style is interesting, he often uses one of his characters to tell the story. He uses the witnesses' technique. Thus, these elements would help the writer to analyze the story as a whole.

F. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Joseph Conrad is used to write his personal experiences to furnish all of his stories. He uses a character that he has met in his adventure and also often takes a setting where the place is familiar to him because he once visits it. Due to Conrad's habit by using his personal experience in his stories especially in *Lord Jim*, the writer will try to analyze the tale through the expressive theory emphasizing on the realism. This theory is usually called expressive realism which is a mixture of expressive and mimetic theory.

Besides expressive realism theory, the writer will use the structural approach to analyze the work because the subject matter of the literary work is the elements of the story itself. Without analyzing the elements of the story as a whole, the essence of the story will lose. Finally, the comparative theory is applied to reveal the comparison between Conrad's experience and the story of *Lord Jim*.

G. METHOD OF THE STUDY

The analysis is started by collecting the data from many references and books of different sources, studies that are related with the story. These references are taken from many libraries. Thus, it is purely a book research. The descriptive analysis is used to describe the characterization, plot and the setting of the story.

This analysis is the comparative study between Conrad's life and the story he writes, *Lord Jim*. Besides the descriptive method, the comparative method is also used to compare the data of Conrad's life and the story, thus the analysis will clearly reveal the case. All criticism and sciences use this comparative method.

H. DEFINITION OF THE KEY TERM

- Lord** : derive from the Malay word “tuan”. Tuan is translated into the word lord that has a meaning of sir or person that is honored by society.
- Parallelism** : being having a relation.
- Self-concept** : self-concept denotes the person’s conception of the kind of person he or she is. Self-concept reflects the characteristic that person perceives as being part of himself or herself.
- Threat** : it exists when a person recognize the incongruity between his self and some aspect of the actual experience.

