

Chapter I

Introduction

A. Background of the Study

“What can I do with life?” This typical question is often raised from people who have tasted and later believe that life offers nothing but dogfight: something cruel that is always repeated like cycle. They have given their best effort, but no yield has ever come out. This is the initial fatiguing process before they arrive at the critical question.

People respond differently upon the question. Some would take it as a question need not be contemplated; some would think over it in contrast. The first categories, who never analyze the question, apparently have started to give up their work. They do not appreciate their effort anymore, or they never realize that the fruit of life is really there and they need to learn a lot on how to see life. On the contrary, the second category is those who are ready to explore the world. They do not worry much about life because they believe that life means struggle, and everybody has his or her own daily struggles. If they pose such question, it is because they see it as a challenge to be better in the future, or at least, to survive in the hostility of life. It inspires them to find the alternative way out.

In doing such struggles, it is believed that human beings are instinctively generated by what is known as “the creative power”. As psychologist Adler says, “ [that] we have an instinct for self-realization, for completion and

perfection". This instinct is the drive force of life, which he called the creative power and thought it was the "first" cause of all behaviour (McConnell, 1977: 502).

The creative power cannot be seen or witnessed if it is not used. As human beings were born carrying unique and essential characteristics, they would perform their creative power quite differently (Sujanto, 1982:76). Some would think theirs are sophisticated , while others see it as intolerable- that these are made only by the odds.

One of the literary works that shows the phenomenon of the creative power in its major character is *Eva Luna* written by Isabel Allende. The creative power in *Eva Luna* is reflected in how she creatively develops her imagination. The novel was written by Isabel Allende, a Chilean author born in Peru in 1943. Her first best-seller novel was published in 1981 entitled *The House of the Spirits*, a novel that has been put on the screen. *Eva Luna* is her third novel, which quoted from Chicago Tribune " ..is large, busy, full of feeling, incident and rich detail. Her humor can be endearingly ironic " (*Eva Luna-More Critical Acclaim For Isabel Allende's Eva Luna*, 1988:1). In fact, Allende's literary works worth noticing in the words and narrative that change, reshape, distort and recreate an evasive reality (Alex del Cid:2000.1). This makes Allende one of the significant authors along with other giants of Latin American literature.

The major character in this novel is *Eva Luna*. She is obviously loaded with energy to overcome everything as the name "Eva" means life. Indeed, early

in her life she must go through the unfriendliness of life. Only by her creative power she can get through hard times.

Born as a servant's daughter without knowing the father, Eva has started to participate in household work when it is supposed to be the time for her to play. In spite of the hard work, her mother fills her mind with knowledge and stories. Since she lives quite isolated from the nearest village with no conventional toys at hand, formal education and contacts with outsiders, Eva welcomes the knowledge from her mother enthusiastically; she has a good memory and she re-creates them in her mind into another version. This brings a positive result as she never complains about the work ; she thinks it as playing house.

When she grows up everything seems to be the same as before. Life is never easy for her, yet she still never complains. She always remembers what Elvira (a cook working in the same house) says that life is a dogfight. She understands it completely and during the time, she develops her creative mind by becoming a storyteller by request. She only offers the story for her closest friends in exchange for simple things. Unfortunately, not all people are pleased with this attitude. Some people accuse her of being daydreaming and consider her behaviour as intolerable.

Keeping everything on its right track demands self-sacrifice and ,as for Eva, she gives her best efforts to make life easier to lead on. So far the only way she knows well in order to get over bad experiences is by using her creative mind. She even uses it as the best weapon, in accordance with her stubbornness and rebelliousness, when some people reject her manner. But there are always

possibilities: throughout her journey she also meets some wonderful people. They are kind and even teach her how to write and read, and most of all valuable lessons that inspire her to get beyond bad experiences. From these people she learns that people are born with talent and success will depend heavily on those who are never tired of seeking and sharpening it.

The way Eva struggles for life by performing her creative mind is an amazing phenomenon for the writer of this thesis. Eva seems to be destined with unhappiness, but she succeeds in escaping from harsh reality with something most people would not appreciate, that is by creatively using her imagination. Here the writer would like to explain two crucial terms: rich imagination and creative mind. These terms are often misunderstood as the same concept but actually they are not. In this case, imagination comes as the mental capacity for experiencing (Nigel:2001,1). Creative mind, to say it further, is something having no boundaries and searches whenever necessary, as guided by insight to find the solution to a problem. Therefore, great minds are utilizing their creative abilities to pose the right question and pursue the relevant answers (Gossamer:1999,1). Eva has succeeded to develop more on her imagination and put her own outstanding style.

Eva is by nature an outstanding storyteller, at first not realizing that her words are so powerful that it can also influence other's feeling. She is an inspiration that we must not surrender but instead, creatively search or be devoted to our unique quality -if we have found one. She proves that even a simple thing can be one's best weapon to win over one's life struggles. These are the reasons

why the writer is interested in this topic; that something within human beings is really there and it generates them for completion and perfection. The writer then will explore how Eva creatively seeks her way out and finds a much better life.

B. Statement of the Problems

Isabel Allende's *Eva Luna* has left some impressions on the writer and thus, based on the impressions, has formulated two questions to be analyzed. They are:

1. How is Eva able to use her creative mind towards her rich imagination?
2. How far is the influence of Eva's rich imagination and creative mind on life?

C. Objective of the Study

In relation to the focus of the analysis, this thesis aims at understanding that:

1. Eva is able to use her imagination in her life struggles
2. Eva's rich imagination and creative mind gives its influence on life

D. Significance of the Study

This thesis is the final requirement for the students of the Faculty of Letters at Airlangga University in finishing their study. In addition, the writer hopes this thesis can enrich readers' literary knowledge in general, and especially gives inspiration that the importance of the creative power in our struggles is essential. Here the example of the creative power is Eva's creative mind towards

her rich imagination. She inspires us that we should find our strength and never give up of sharpening it. It can change our destinies, in which others have presumed to happen upon us. If it is not money or fame that we are looking for, then the harvest of our creative power is life survival.

By exploring this topic the writer also wants to introduce Isabel Allende to readers' horizon as one of the most saluted Latin American authors at this time. *Eva Luna* is one of her masterpieces, and it reveals the brilliant ideas of its author. Readers can also enjoy Allende's gift of weaving stories in a genius yet beautiful language to give pleasure to its readers.

E. Theoretical Background

The writer sees the way Eva uses her creative mind towards her imagination as an interesting phenomenon of an individual struggling for life. The character performs such manner to get over harsh reality. Therefore, the writer will apply characterization and setting concepts in accordance with the focus of the analysis in order to give insight to Eva's character and the setting foregrounding the creative mind.

To recognize Eva's rich imagination and creative mind to get beyond bad experiences as something that is generated by the instinct to completion and perfection, the writer will analyze the topic with a psychological approach. In the field of psychology, there is one discussion on what is so-called *creative power*. Adler's creative power is then applicable to understand people's struggle through various conditions with its manifestations.

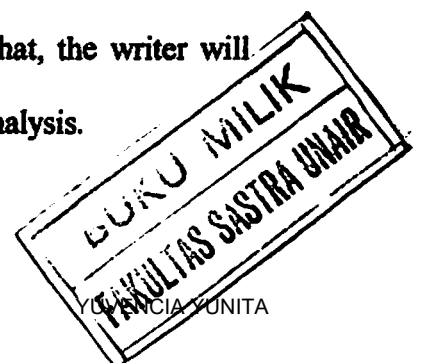
F. Scope and Limitation

Scope and limitation is very important since it prevents us from broadened analysis which is far from the targeted issues. The writer will discuss on Eva's struggles to survive and get over bad experiences by using her creative mind towards rich imagination. The discussion then will be limited on how Eva is able to use her creative mind, and its influence on life. In this way, the writer will lay bare this typical struggle and presents the phenomena of the creative mind within the character.

G. Method of the Study

The writer in this thesis reads Isabel Allende's novel entitled *Eva Luna* and is impressed with the heroine's unique way to solve her problems. After reading the novel and find the statement of the problems to be analyzed, the writer conducts the data collecting and data analysis.

One of the data collecting done is through library research, in which the related information to the aspect of creative power compiled. As some important source on the novel's criticism is rarely found through the previous way, the writer then conducts internet browsing. Next, the writer reads and observes the material in hand with close reading technique. This process results in the classification of the criteria needed, as to provide the manifestation of the heroine's creative power and its great influence on life. In that, the writer will determine which data are worth using for the process of data analysis.



For the data analysis, the writer uses descriptive-qualitative method since it is useful in presenting more detailed understanding on the data. Using this method, the writer presents data in the form of quotations, utterances, others' information on the heroine , or events.

H. Definitions of the Key Terms

Creative Power: a term by Alfred Adler in the field of psychology to refer to an instinct within human beings for self realization, for completion and perfection (Warga,44)

Imagination: the mental capacity for experiencing (Nigel, 1)

Creative mind: something having no boundaries and searches whenever necessary, as guided by insight to find the solution to a problem (Gossamer, 1).

Eva is creatively developing her imagination into stories that she tells to others.

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK