

ABSTRACT

The Cider House Rules (1985) is a novel written by John Irving. The novel tells us about the life story of two major characters, Dr. Wilbur Larch and Hoer Wells, in fulfilling their destinies as obstetricians. The main theme of the novel is abortion, and the issue presented in the novel is whether an obstetrician should become an abortionist as one of the social problem solutions.

In fulfilling their destinies, both Dr. Wilbur Larch and Homer Wells have to undergo a dilemmatic situation in their lives. They have different moral decisions in responding to the dilemmatic situation which later bring consequences to their lives. This study is intended to reveal the underlying moral and ethical values induced by the author. This is done through the examination of the characterization, and the use of utilitarianism theory in analyzing the consequences of the choices.

It is expected that through the examination of the literary work the underlying ethic and moral values can be revealed, and that the importance of literary work as a medium to introduce the author's ethic and moral values can be confirmed.

Key Terms:

Consequences

Dilemmatic Situation

Felicific Calculus

Motive

Utilitarianism