

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Literature is believed to be the study that touches the inner part of human being. Many people may even consider literature as a part of their life, for it gives them pleasures. Moreover, literature reflects human life. This idea was stated by Laurence D. Lerner in his book entitled “*Reconstructing Literature* “. He wrote that literature was something general, such a “man’s fate” or “human’s lifer” (Lerner, 1983:49). It is called a human lifer because in general literature contains incidentally, much information, especially much historical information of life itself; and it is possible to derive from it a great many facts dealing customs, beliefs, or events of the past (Brooks, Purser, Warren, 1946:1).

Roberts and Jacobs furthermore defines literature as written (and also spoken) composition designed to tell stories, dramatize situations, and reveal thoughts and emotions, and also, more importantly, to interest, entertain, stimulate, broaden and enable readers. Sometimes by reading a literary work people can get a new point of view of this life. Literary works contain truth and facts that can always be applied in real life because the authors, who write those writings, take their inspirations from daily life where human’s experiences can be made as reflections to other human’s life.

Farmer (1985:167) insists that literature is more interesting than other written subjects matter such as news of earthquake or political crisis. This news tends to be easily forgotten but literature keeps its newsworthiness. People talk about literature for years or even centuries after it is written, because it has the power to move them to respond to it and they enjoy sharing their reaction with other, describing striking character or recounting that hilarious scene. Literature might leave a mark in someone's life, whether it is good or bad, that can be a force to him and change his former minds and thoughts. A literary work could stir people's responses, arouse their emotions and argue some principal ideas.

In literature analysis, readers' responses are arranged in a scientific way. The main purpose of analyzing literature is to enable the readers to understand and evaluate the terms of literary works, in order to be able to gain the meaning well. There are two aspects which should be revealed in literary analysis as it is implied by Little (1966:2). The first aspect, literature is something worth saying. A good literature helps so much to understand about life and problems related to it. It embodies thoughts and feeling as a whole, for instance: love, hatred, death and so on. The second aspect, literature is something well said and that is expressed beautifully. A literary analysis should employ literary theories to reveal its beauty.

There are at least three types of literature; they are poetry, drama and prose fiction. Prose fiction includes novels and short stories. This study limits on the discussion of a short story, as it is a piece of fiction which is not too long, yet it covers a complex but solid story. Because of its nature, a not-too-long, complex-but-

solid story, short story makes its readers enjoy it. Graham Little (1966:109) furthermore argues that short story must be capable of being read at one sitting. Little adds that short story should create a single impression. It makes the readers understand the content of the story more easily. Ray B. West Jr. (1965:471) adds that short story, by its nature, concentrates upon a single incident or action; it has few characters; its setting and characterization must rather evoke than develop in dovetails; its effect must be made quickly and sharply.

This study chooses one short story by W. Somerset Maugham entitled "*The Colonel's Lady*". The writer chooses him because he was the writer of the modern novel. The literature world highly appreciates Maugham as the true writer, who year after year can turn out everything from plays to novel to essays. Maugham always presents his writings in the three qualities of his style: lucidity, simplicity and euphony. He does not embellish with sonorous phrases, nor does he lean on the adjective. He tells a story; he draws no morals. He is a master at setting the scene. Each portion of the novel fits into the next, and nothing is accidental. It has all been carefully and skillfully plotted.

In his critics about Maugham's works, Edmund Wilson compares them with the symphony created by Ludwig van Beethoven. He said that the symphony was forever altered by Ludwig van Beethoven; no similar statement can be made about Maugham and the novel. He sought to tell a story with clarity and grace, to embody a set of attitudes and values, and to entertain his readers with insights into character and life (Magill, 1964: 1844). In his novel, the readers can find that there were no stylistic

flourishes, no evocative phrases and no graceful cadences. Immediate comprehensibility was the only criterion (Robson, 1982:39). With his ability, he is considered as a story teller of genius with sardonic view of human behavior, anti romantic and mercilessly observant with unrivalled skill in realizing the climax of the story (Stapleton, 1983:577). He wrote his story with a style highly idiomatic and fluent, revealing the qualities of simplicity, lucidity and euphony which the author sought to attain (Magill, 1964: 1844-1885). In Maugham's novel one can see what happens in this life; sometimes it is ended with happy ending, sad ending, or none of it.

The Colonel's Lady is an interesting and great story to read. It tells about a perfect couple who lived in a small country with an extraordinary popularity. The lady was a great wife for his husband and a good hostess of her house. The colonel himself had a good reputation among his fellows. He was also popular with the neighboring gentry. In other words, it can be said that they were a happy couple with a high social status in the society.

In the middle of their comfortable life, there had been a love affair between the wife with a guy who was widely separated from her by age, social status and life experiences. The forbidden affair had been known by many people because the lady wrote a poetry book that indicated her affair with the guy. But the last person knowing the affair was her husband. The colonel knew about the book but he would never realize the affair until one of his friends told him so. However, the Colonel did not blame his wife. Even he did not talk about this matter. He just wondered why his

wife should have written a poetry book and revealed her own love affair. Not only that, the Colonel could not admit that his wife had had an affair.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

This study is aimed to find out the reasons why the Colonel finds it difficult to admit his wife's forbidden affair. So the statement of the problem can be formulated as: "Why is it difficult for the Colonel to admit his wife's forbidden affair?"

1.3. Objective of the Study

Based on the question above, this study is planned to find out the reasons of the Colonel's difficulty in admitting his wife's affair.

1.4. Significance of the Study

This study is expected to be able to give useful information about W. Somerset Maugham's short story because so far the study of W. Somerset Maugham's short stories has only a little been done by students of Widya Mandala Catholic University.

It is also expected that the study can be used as one of the literary collections for the library study. Besides the writer hopes that this study might be useful if other students want to analyze the same problem in a literary work.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

As a whole, this study centers on the findings why it is so difficult for the Colonel to admit his wife's affair. In order to answer the question, the study will explore the main characters in the short story; they are the Colonel himself and his wife. Then, the writer will also analyze the plot to get the answer for the problem statement. Therefore, this study will only focus on inner conflict of the Colonel concerning his reasons not to admit his wife's love affair.

1.6. Definition of Key Terms

Although the terms in this study may probably have been known, those terms are still needed to be clarified. Therefore, the study defines the terms used as follows:

1. Pride is knowledge of one's own worth or character; a sense of dignity and respect for oneself (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary).
2. Affair is an event or series of events, especially one connected with a particular person, thing or place (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary).
However, in this short story the meaning of an affair was connotative which was a forbidden love relationship between two persons outside a legal marriage.
3. Admit is to recognize or agree, often unwillingly, that something is true; to confess something real (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary).

4. Analysis is identifying the separate parts that make the literary work up, determining the relationship among the parts to the whole (Simon and Schuster, 1966:5)

1.7. Theoretical Framework

The underlying theories in this study includes the theories related to the intrinsic part of the story, which are mainly about the nature of short story and the elements of short story (character, plot, setting and theme). However, this study focuses on the character and the plot elements in its findings because the answers of the problem statement are found in those two elements.

1.8. Research Method

Since this study uses the intrinsic analysis, it identifies and analyzes the reasons why the Colonel could not admit his wife's love affair through the intrinsic parts of the literary work, especially characters and plot elements. This study also uses the textual approach where the information is drawn from the text itself.

1.9. Organization of the Thesis

This study is divided into five chapters. Chapter I deal with Introduction, which consists of Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Objective of the Study, Significance of the Study, Scope and Limitation, Definition of Key Terms, Theoretical Framework, Research Method and Organization of the Study.

Chapter II deals with Review of Related Literature, which consists of Nature of Short Story and Elements of Short Story.

Chapter III deals with Research Methodology, which consists of Research Design, Subject of the Study, Instrument, Procedure of Data Collection and Procedure of Analyzing the Data.

Chapter IV deals with Analysis, which consists of Character Analysis and Plot Analysis.

Chapter V deals with Conclusion and Suggestion.