

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Kennedy (1991:213) claims that a novel is a book-length story in prose whose author tries to create the sense that, while we read, we experience actual life. A novel always has characters taking part in actions and events. Although the characters are only the invention of the authors, they are the same as those that we know in our lives. Roberts and Jacobs (1989:56) are of the opinion that we may expect characters from every area of life and because we share the same human capacities for happiness and sorrow, we will become interested in the problems the characters face and how they try to handle them. Being able to experience actual life through reading is one of the reasons why the writer decided to choose a novel as her background of the study. Through the eye of the characters we are able to see life. Sometimes the life presented by the author is a very different life from the one we lead.

Experience shows that it is easier to understand a novel than other types of literature like drama and poetry because in a novel, we are given explanation about the characters. The author of the novel describes the way the characters speak, dress, walk, or relate to other characters and how they react in certain situation. What the author does here helps us readers to see what the characters look like, to hear the way they speak.

A good novel is also one that has a conflict. According to Brook (1964:11) no conflict, no story. It shows how important the role of a conflict is in a story. Conflict is caused by some reasons, such as “motive” or needs, religion, and circumstance (Garret, 1950). According to Jaffe and Scott (1668:3) conflict is the basic principle to

arouse and maintain the reader's interest in a story. Without a conflict, a story will be uninteresting and boring. It is a conflict that gives us pattern, direction and also gives us the sense of a story going somewhere. The reason that conflict is important is that it keeps us in doubt about the outcome. This doubt will produce curiosity and also tension. It is clear that unless there is doubt there is no tension, and unless there is tension there is no interest. So, the writer of the thesis decides to analyze the conflict of the main character in the novel because it is her conflict and the way she tries to solve the conflict, which make the story interesting.

Shaw (1974:41) says that there are three types of conflict, namely physical, social, and internal conflicts. Internal conflict is a conflict of a character against himself or herself happening in a complicated situation. He or she then should choose the best solution to the conflict according to his or her own consideration. The writer here chooses to analyze the internal conflict of the main character in the novel. Analyzing internal conflict is always interesting to do because from the conflict, we can know the character better.

Great authors are fascinated by the internal conflict of the characters. Authors tend to be observers, constantly wondering why people make certain choices and interact as they do. Novels are particularly good for exploring internal struggles. The internal thought of a character can appear within the text, exposing how choices are made. The authors can decide whether to expose the motivations and internal struggles of characters through their thoughts and their actions.

(<http://www.tameri.com/write/conflict.html>).

Here, characterization will also be used to link the characters in the story and their conflict. Characterization is the process of conveying information about characters in fiction. Characters are usually presented through their actions, dialect,

and thoughts, as well as by description.

(<http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/characterization>).

Characters are introduced in the early scenes and their situations are described.

Finally, a major conflict appears, and the why is revealed to readers.

(<http://www.tameri.com/write/conflict.html>).

Besides characterization, psychological concept like basic needs will also be used to have a further and deeper analysis of the study. Roberts and Jacobs (1989:144) claim that when we study a character, we must consider his physical descriptions, but we must also be sure to relate the physical to the mental or psychological description. We must go beyond the character's actions and try to determine what they show about the characters. We must try to get from the outside to the inside, for it is on the inside that characters reside.

“By the River Piedra, I Sat Down and Wept” by Paulo Coelho sounds very touching and interesting. This is the reason why this novel is chosen. The novel might look as an easy reading, but if we read it seriously we will see that it also requires some thought and heart to understand the story. It appears on bestseller lists in some countries. The story is about Pilar who is in love with her childhood friend. Her friend however, is a very influential and powerful leader of a religious movement. Pilar herself is a woman who wants to love and be loved, but is always stopped by her insecure feelings. Here we can feel the conflict. What will happen to her love? Will she overcome her inner conflict?

Every author has his or her own style of writing. The writer chooses Paulo Coelho because of his poetic style of writing. Paulo's style is always easy to follow. His choice of words is always beautiful. The story, which he tells, is always a kind of self-discovery, which compels us to think and remember again certain things that are

long-forgotten deep inside us. Paulo Coelho was born in Brazil and he is not only one of the most widely read, but also one of the most influential authors writing today. His books have appeared on bestseller lists in a lot of countries.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

In line with the background of the study, the research problems of the study under report were formulated as follows:

1. What form of internal conflict does Pilar experience?
2. Why does Pilar experience such internal conflict?
3. How does Pilar solve her internal conflict?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

Closely related to the problems statements, the study under report attempted

1. To identify the form of the internal conflict that happens to Pilar,
2. To describe and discuss the reasons why Pilar experiences such internal conflict,
3. To identify and discuss the ways Pilar takes to solve her internal conflict.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

It is hoped that the findings of this study will be some use to the readers, especially the students of the English Department of Widya Mandala Surabaya Catholic University. By reading this study they will be able to handle any similar conflict they happen to face.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The writer here limits her study on Pilar, the main character of the novel. As the main character here is faced with her internal conflict, the writer will emphasize her study on Pilar's internal conflict and how she solves the internal conflict.

1.6 The Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, some key words that are frequently used in this study need to be defined as follows:

1. Novel

According to Morner and Rausch (1991:149-150) novel is lengthy fictional narrative in prose dealing with characters, incidents, and settings that imitate those found in real life.

2. Characterization

According to Wikipedia Encyclopedia (2007) characterization is the process of conveying information about characters in fiction. Characters are usually presented through their actions, dialect, and thoughts, as well as by description.

3. Main Character

According to Perrish (1977:494) a main character is a character who plays an important and prominent role in the story. In the novel under study, the main character is Pilar because the story focuses on her and her friend.

4. Conflict

According to Singh (2004:51) a conflict is mental struggle arising from clash of opposing impulses, drives, or demands. In this novel under study, the conflict is about Pilar's needs for love and her insecure feelings.

5. Internal conflict

According to Morner and Rausch (1991:111) an inner conflict or internal conflict is a character's inner struggle against himself or herself.

6. *"By the River Piedra, I Sat Down and Wept"*

This is the title of the novel discussed in this study. This novel is about a woman by the name of Pilar who, after eleven years of separation, meets again with her childhood friend, who now has grown into a handsome and charismatic spiritual leader. The novel is written by Paulo Coelho published by arrangements with Sant Jordi Asociados in Spain. Originally it is written in Portuguese and it was translated into English (and Indonesian). This novel contains 180 pages. The language is quite difficult, because there are some poetic languages that the writer has to guess the meaning.

1.7 Organization of the Thesis

This study consists of five chapters.

Chapter 1 is the introduction, consisting of the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study and the definition of key terms. Chapter 2 is the review of the related literature, the nature and types of conflict, nature of internal conflict, why and how internal conflict happens. Relation between character and psychological concept, such as basic needs will also be used. Chapter 3 is the methodology of the thesis, which describes the nature of the study, the design of the study, the instrument of study, the data and the source of the data, the collection of the data and the analysis of the data. Chapter 4 is the data analysis and findings. Chapter 5 is the summarizes what has

been presented in the previous chapters and suggests something for the future research.