

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Reading is one kind of activity that can be relaxing and exciting. By reading literature, people can get information for knowledge and amusement. Literature in general does contain incidentally much information especially much historical information and it is possible to derive from it a great many facts dealing with customs, beliefs or events of the past (Knickerbocker, 1946, I). Besides getting information from reading literature, people can broaden their mind, knowledge and insight about how people face the life's reality to complete their dream, to conduct their feelings and emotions, and also to struggle for happy life. It is because a novel or short story, as stated by Laurence Perrine (1966;120), may bring them some insight into life that they had not had before, and thus expand their horizons, or it may make them feel or experience again the same truth of which they have long been merely intellectually aware.

There are several literary forms in which the telling of a story is the primary aim such as prose fiction which covers the novel and the short story, the drama and various kinds of narrative poetry. Like novel, short story has several components such as character, theme, plot (conflict), and setting. Even though novel and short story have the same components, they have differences. Brooks, Purser, and Warren (1946, 25) said that a short story differs from a novel (or novelette) in that it gives a "single impression", a "total effect", or "one emotion".

The writer is interested in studying short story because it is about an episode, deep and meaningful story.

To make a story more interesting, a plot is needed. According to McKenzie (1978, 31) a plot is defined as a series of interrelated actions and generally set in motion by conflict. By analyzing the conflict, readers can understand the characteristic of the main character. They also can get a new perspective of life based on the conflict that happened in the story.

According to Shaw (1974, 41), there are three types of conflict. They are physical, psychological, and sociological conflict. The writer is interested in psychological or inner conflict since it is a conflict of a character against himself when he faces complicated situation and should choose the best solution based on his own consideration.

Edith Wharton is an American novelist. She published some fifty varied volumes in her lifetime, and left a number of unpublished manuscripts and a voluminous correspondence at her death. Wharton's second novel, "The House of Mirth", 1905 was a bestseller. She won Pulitzer Prize for her novel, "The Age of Innocence" in 1920. Another of Edith Wharton's works "The Other Two", successfully converts her personal tension over divorce into art. The writer chooses the work of Edith Wharton entitled, "The Other Two" because what Wharton has written is a common theme to many marriages. It concerns with the anxiety experienced by the main character toward his wife. The anxiety is caused by his wife's previous husbands who came into their marriage life.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In line with the background of the study, the research questions are formulated as follows:

1. What inner conflict is faced by the main character of Edith Wharton short story *The Other Two*?
2. What are the reasons for the emergence of the inner conflict?
3. What is the solution to the inner conflict?

1.3 Significance of the Study

It is hoped that this thesis will be useful for the teaching and learning of literature because through literature the readers can learn the culture, custom and history of the country where an author lives or where the story takes places. The writer also hopes that this thesis encourages other students especially the students of Widya Mandala Surabaya Catholic University to broaden their mind through literature to understand the world they belong to and to know how to handle inner conflict and also enjoy the short story more.

1.4 Limitation of the Study

The analysis is limited on the inner conflict faced by the main character. Besides, this study focuses on finding out the reasons for the emergence of the inner conflict and the solution to the inner conflict.

1.5 Theoretical Framework

In studying this literary work, the writer deals with some theories concerning the analysis on the central character of Edith Wharton's short story. They are (1) the nature of fiction, (2) short story, (3) the elements of short story: character, and plot, (3) the types of conflict: physical, social, and psychological (or inner) conflict.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misinterpretation about this study, the followings are the specific terms used in this study:

1. Short story: a brief work of prose fiction and most of the terms for analyzing the components, the types, and the various narrative techniques in a novel are applicable to the short story as well. (Abrams, 1985:193)
2. Character: the persons presented in a dramatic or narrative work who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with moral dispositional and emotional qualities that are expressed in what they say – the dialogue – and what they do – the action. (Abrams; 1985:25)
3. Main Character: a character who plays an important and prominent role in the story (Parish, 1977:494)
4. Conflict: a clash of actions, ideas, desires, or wills. (Perrine, 1966:59)
5. Inner conflict: a conflict within the mind of the character who is torn frequently between contrasting loyalties and ways of life or between two

aspects of the self, usually one that is ‘idealized’ and one that is ‘real’.

(McKenzie, 1978: 31)

6. Intrinsic approach: the approach which focuses on the elements that lie in the text such as character, plot, theme, structure, style, and atmosphere.

(Firdaus; 1986: 56)

1.7 Organization of the Study

This study is organized into five chapters. The first chapter is “Introduction” consisting of the background of the study, statements of the study, objective of the study, significance of the study, limitation of the study, theoretical framework, definition of the key term and organizational of the study. The second chapter concerns with “Review of Related Literature” tracing the supporting theory and previous studies. The third chapter deals with “Research Method”. The fourth chapter covers “Analysis”, and the fifth chapter is “Conclusions and Suggestions”.